

Hafa Adai!

NMI households can apply for \$3.2B broadband aid program. **PAGE 2**

Gas prices up another 10 cents. **PAGE 3**

75¢

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 91

www.saipantribune.com

MONDAY MAY 10, 2021

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## PSS to start handing out applications for \$11.1M P-EBT program

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Starting today, Monday, the Child Nutrition Program of

» **11,650 children in the CNMI will be eligible**

the Public School System's will be handing students the applications for the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer, or P-EBT, a federal program

that will provide the Marianas an estimated \$11.1 million that will benefit approximately 11,650 children. Speaking at a radio news

briefing last Friday, PSS Child Nutrition Program manager Dale Roberts and Nutrition Assistance Program administrator Walter Macaranas said

that PSS and NAP are partnering to administer the P-EBT program.

Meanwhile, Delegate Gre-  
**See PSS on Page 4**



By **JUSTINE NAUTA**  
justine\_nauta@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

## Galvin is next NMC president

Former Mount Carmel School president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero has accepted the Northern

Marianas College Board of Regents offer to be the next NMC president and he will start transitioning over the summer.

The Board of Regents unanimously voted to give Deleon Guerrero an offer at its special board meet-  
**See GALVIN on Page 4**

## 2 more positives; 54% now fully vaccinated

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**  
justine\_nauta@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

It was a mixed bag of COVID-19 news this past weekend: two more positive COVID-19 cases were reported, even as 54% of the CNMI's eligible population is now fully vaccinated.

Two individuals were confirmed positive for COVID-19 over the weekend, bringing the CNMI's overall total to 170 cases.

The 169<sup>th</sup> case was identified by travel screening and confirmed diagnosis through testing upon arrival last May 6. The 170<sup>th</sup> case was also identified by travel screening and confirmed diagnosis through fifth-day testing last May 8.

The Commonwealth

Healthcare Corp. said the individuals have been moved  
**See POSITIVES on Page 4**

### AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, May 9, 2021

#### VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	19,946
Fully Vaccinated:	17,797
Moderna	
Initiated:	3,319
Fully Vaccinated:	2,350
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	60

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,020	3	8,023
Recovered	7,783	6	7,789
Active	92	3	95
Deaths	138	1	139
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	156,307		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	168	2	170
Traced via Travel Screening	132	2	134
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	26,131*		
Days since last community transmission	53		

\*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.



### OHALA WARRIORS

Ohala Foundation co-founder Phillip Mendiola-Long, farthest right, poses with Ohala Foundation Warriors (volunteers) and their roadside donation signs last Saturday at the pavilion across Modern Office Supply. The food, drinks, clothes, and money collected over the weekend will go toward helping the Ohala Foundation launch its Rota office at the end of May.

**Story on Page 5**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## New office created to handle nearly \$1B worth of projects

» **Concepcion-Teregeyo no longer DPL secretary as she heads new office**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A new office that will be headed by Mari-  
anne Concepcion-Teregeyo has been created to streamline the close to \$1 billion worth of  
**See NEW on Page 4**

### COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

#### LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

## INSIDE



### NATION

Campuses tighten restrictions amid a spike in student COVID-19 cases.

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### WORLD

Members of the South African royal family question Prince Misuzulu Zulu's claim to the Zulu title.

**PAGE 13**



### LIFE & STYLE

Angelina Jolie lets Taylor Sheridan drag her through hell in a new mountain thriller.

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# Local

## NMI households can apply for \$3.2B broadband aid program

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Beginning Wednesday, May 12, eligible Marianas households can apply for the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, which will provide recipients a discount up to \$50 on internet service and a \$100 subsidy to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet.

Also, the CNMI will get an estimated \$9 million more in

### » CNMI will get \$9M more in Emergency Rental Assistance Program 2.0

the second round of Emergency Rental Assistance Program, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) in his e-kilili newsletter over the weekend.

Sablan said the Federal Communications Commission announced last Saturday that it will start accepting applications for the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program on May 12. The program will end when funding runs out or six months after the declared end of the pandemic emergency.

"The program helps those struggling with income loss or reduction due to the CO-

VID-19 pandemic and other low-income households," Sablan said.

Participating providers in the CNMI are Docomo Pacific and IT&E.

A household is eligible if a member qualifies for the free and reduced lunch program, is a Pell grant or Lifeline recipient, was recently laid off or furloughed, or qualifies for a participating provider's existing low-income or COVID-19

discount program.

Sablan said U.S. Congress created the \$3.2-billion program in the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021 to provide recipients discounts on internet service and subsidized purchase of a laptop, a desktop, or tablet.

On rental assistance, Sablan said that Congress provided \$21.6 billion to continue the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, or ERA, in the American Rescue Plan; it includes \$305 million that's set aside for the territories. Sablan said the CNMI is estimated to receive \$9 million from that.

He said new policies will also take effect, including requiring state and local programs to provide assistance directly to renters if landlords refuse to accept ERA payments, and requiring programs to prohibit eviction for nonpayment of rent for the months covered

by the program.

The delegate said the Biden-Harris administration also strengthened guidance discouraging programs from establishing documentation requirements that would likely create barriers to participation.

The CNMI had already received \$10.4 million in ERA money.

Last March, Office of Grants Management administrator Epiphania Cabrera Jr. said that, despite such a large amount of available funding, they have received only 700 applicants so far at the time.

Cabrera said that, based on their calculation, the ERA program in the CNMI can hold up to 1,500 clients a month.

The program aims to reduce evictions and to keep CNMI citizens in stable homes, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Sablan

### IN FEMA'S HOUSING PROGRAM FOR YUTU SURVIVORS

## FEMA has large quality assurance team

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has created a large team that manages quality assurance in its housing program for survivors of Super Typhoon Yutu on Saipan and Tinian, according to FEMA's Region IX Recovery Office director Sheryl Cochran.

Speaking at a radio news briefing last Friday, Cochran said they have high expectations of their contractors and hold them to those expectations, "especially when it's something as personal as building someone's home. I don't believe it ever gets any more personal than building someone's home."

Yutu hit the CNMI in October 2018, causing massive destruction on Saipan and Tinian. FEMA has stepped in to help individuals to repair damaged homes and in, some cases, building brand new houses for qualified residents.

Cochran said they expect absolute perfection from their contractors and that it's not an exaggeration.

"We have some of the best [quality assurance] people. And because they stay as diligent, they're there visiting the sites every day, sometimes two

or three times a day," she said.

Cochran revealed that the QA people are doing all of the critical elements anytime concrete is being poured. She said she has two or three people monitoring to ensure that the concrete is "absolutely perfect." They are doing this, she said, to make sure that the concrete is as great as they can get for the safety of these individuals.

As far as timelines to complete the project is concerned, Cochran said they have some anticipated timelines in their head and that they have stretched those. "Because the contractors came back and said, 'Hey, this is not going to be executable for us.' But let's work together and find out what is executable and reasonable," she said.

Cochran said they made those modifications to the program and that the contractors have been delivering.

She said the cohesive partnership with the contractors, the constant support from the CNMI administration team, as well as FEMA, help make the program works. "And we are really not seeing homes delayed unless there are significant site challenges. We do have a couple of those," she added.



Cochran



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Friday, May 21 | Saturday, May 22 | Friday, May 28 | Friday, June 4  
\$19.00 /Adult | \$10.00 /Child (ages 6-11)



### SEAFOOD NIGHT DINNER BUFFET

Friday, May 21 | Friday, May 28 | Friday, June 4  
\$38.00 /Adult | \$19.00 /Child (ages 6-11)



### STEAK NIGHT DINNER BUFFET

Thursday, May 27  
\$38.00 /Adult | \$19.00 /Child (ages 6-11)



### SUNDAY BRUNCH BUFFET

Sunday, May 23 | Sunday, May 30 | Sunday, June 6  
\$38.00 /Adult | \$19.00 /Child (ages 6-11)



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## MHS plans to have in-person, non-traditional graduation on May 28

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Marianas High School will be hosting an in-person graduation ceremony this year while still complying with COVID-19 safety guidelines, making it the only one so far of Saipan's four high schools within the Public School System to plan for and organize an in-person graduation.

The ceremony will be held at the Commonwealth Ports Authority airport field on May 28.

"MHS pursued an in-person graduation based on our stakeholders. Our students have been very vocal; our parents as well. We wanted to see if this is possible," said MHS principal Jonathan Aguon.

Working with the COVID-19 Task Force, PSS' key management team needed to make compromises to make the in-person graduation comply with current COVID-19 safety guidelines. In addition to holding the event in a large, open field to ensure social distancing and proper air ventilation, the graduation will both be optional and non-traditional.

"We wanted our students to have the experience of an in-person graduation, but it [will not] have all the elements of

a [traditional] ceremony," said Aguon.

For ease of contact tracing, only graduates who wish to attend will be allowed to be at the airport field. Graduates' parents and the students who prefer not to attend will be able to follow the graduation online, as the event will be streamed on MHS' Facebook page. Secondly, actions that could possibly expose attendees to the virus and spread it are prohibited: all in attendance must wear a mask at all times, there will be no gestures such as handshakes or hugs, and students will be required to sanitize at multiple points during the event.

Aguon thanks the COVID-19 Task Force for being open to the idea of an in-person graduation and for their help in ensuring it can happen. "High school graduation is a once-in-a-lifetime type of experience. It's a major part of any high school student's life. ... We understand that the safety of the community is important, so that's why we had to make sure that every single box was ticked. We're not out of the woods yet. If there is community spread [before the graduation], we are prepared to transition to other plans," said Aguon.

## DPS still searching for armed man

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**  
justine\_nauta@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Department of Safety is still searching for Don Jr. P. Sanchez, a man who is considered armed and dangerous, according to DPS Commissioner Robert Guerrero.

Speaking at the media briefing last Friday, Guerrero says Sanchez is wanted for drug trafficking and possession of illegal firearms, which is why they are still looking for him.

"We continuously have officers that are searching. We've had a couple leads and, again, thank you to the community for any leads that may give us his whereabouts. He is considered dangerous, so please be careful out there," said Guerrero.

Also, Sanchez is wanted for allegedly receiving stolen property, failure to complete firearms owner identification requirement, removal of firearm serial number, possession of a controlled substance, and trafficking of a controlled substance.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Sanchez was reportedly involved a drive-by shooting in San

Jose, Saipan last Sept. 20, 2020, but it was then quickly learned that he had shot himself accidentally and was arrested and charged with illegal discharge of a firearm.

At the time, DPS said officers met with the caller who informed them that their friend was shot in the leg from a passing vehicle. Officers got the description of the vehicle and immediately notified all units to be on the look-out.



Sanchez

Officers reported that the victim was screaming in pain and was lying face up and bleeding from his left thigh. Medics quickly brought Sanchez to the Commonwealth Health Center for further treatment.

After further inspection, officers learned from witnesses at the scene that the incident was self-inflicted due to an accidental discharge of a handgun. The pistol was later recovered and procured as evidence.

Last April 29, DPS released a statement saying that they have received several tips that Sanchez might be operating or roaming in a silver Rav4 (LP# AER-101) or a charcoal Mazda 6 (LP#ADE-603).

## Gas prices up another 10 cents

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Oil companies in the CNMI raised their gas prices anew by another 10 cents over the weekend, with Mobil Oil Marianas taking the lead early Friday morning.

From \$4.52 a gallon for Extra fuel, Mobil Oil Marianas hiked its prices to \$4.62 a gallon for regular fuel. Mobil also raised its Supreme fuel from \$4.85 a gallon to \$5.07 while its diesel fuel

also went up from \$4.58 a gallon to \$4.68.

Shell Marianas followed suit early Saturday morning.

According to a woman who asked that her name be withheld, life is already hard as it is with the world still battling the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We can barely afford our necessities right now like food and rent, and now we have to worry about gas continuously going up? It's crazy," she said.

Although she is fur-

loughed, she said that she still needs to drop her children to school and she also does side jobs that require her to drive from point A to point B.

Another individual, a 25-year-old man who works at a local auto shop, believes the price increase is motivated by greed. "It's greed. I don't know who is being greedy but I believe some kind of offset can be done somewhere in order for gas prices to at least stay the same and not to go up but I believe

they're taking advantage of the fact that fuel is vital and we don't have a choice but to pay for it," he said.

Back in April the fuel adjustment charge rate of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., which was \$0.16578 per kilowatt-hour, increased to \$0.17341 per kWh due to increased global fuel prices. This means residential customers who use 500 kWh of power per month now pay approximately \$3.82 more in their monthly billing.

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**IT&E**



## GALVIN

From Page 1

ing last Friday and Deleon Guerrero accepted it that same day.

It was also learned that the Board of Regents asked NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico, who has held the post since August 2018, to consider becoming NMC president, but Eliptico declined.

The last NMC president was Dr. Carmen Fernandez, who had resigned from her post. Before Fernandez, NMC had Dr. Sharon Hart.

In a Facebook statement, Deleon Guerrero confirmed that he had accepted the offer and will transition over the summer. Deleon Guerrero describes leaving MCS as bitter-sweet, but as an educator, he has always believed in “the power of education to transform lives.”

“On one hand, I look forward to using my time and talents to have a broader impact on our community. ...Serving as the president of the Northern Marianas College will help me help many others transform their lives. On the other hand, I have cherished the privilege of transforming lives here at Mount Carmel School, and I am saddened that my professional path is taking me elsewhere,” said Deleon Guerrero.

He assured that he will work with Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez, MCS’ board

of directors chair Vicente Babauta, the MCS board of directors, and MCS’ leadership Team “to ensure a smooth transition.”

“As we make this transition, please trust that we have great leaders and educators in place who can and who will continue contributing to the rich legacy of our school,” said Deleon Guerrero. He added that they have also built up the school’s human resources, and developed and implemented policies, procedures, and practices that will contribute to its effective and efficient operations.

Despite his absence at MCS, Deleon Guerrero assures that he will still “be connected to the school” as he has done in the past. Though he’s not sure how that will happen, it’ll be done “one way or another.”

“With that, I humbly ask you to keep me in your prayers. The road ahead will be difficult, for all of us. But, if it’s one thing I know about our school family, it is this: we are Knight Strong,” said Deleon Guerrero.

‘Knight sailing on a *proa*’

In a social media message to *Saipan Tribune*, Deleon Guerrero said he looks forward to his next challenge of leading NMC.

“I am humbled and honored by the offer by the Board of Regents. I have accepted the offer and I look forward to working with the board

and the entire college community to build on NMC’s 40-year legacy to continue transforming lives and meeting the needs of our community through education. I must also thank interim president Frankie Eliptico for all that he has done to lead the institution through typhoons, a pandemic, and numerous other challenges. His leadership has kept the college’s *proa* afloat and sailing ahead,” he said.

Deleon Guerrero said he will also be thankful for MCS but assured everyone that he will continue to serve his alma mater, but this time in an informal manner.

“I love my school family and, as I work with Bishop Ryan and chairman Ben on this transition, I take comfort knowing that we have great people and sustainable systems in place at MCS that will ensure that transition is smooth. Plus, as I have done in the past, I will definitely stay connected to my alma mater in one way or another. Some people like to golf. Others like to fish. I love being a Knight. The only difference is that I’ll be a Knight sailing on a *proa*,” he said.

## Employees on Eliptico

Board of Regents chair Charles Cepeda said that Eliptico “stepped up to the leadership role with a great deal of passion for the college” soon after Super Typhoon Yutu hit Saipan and Tinian, causing massive damage

to the NMC campuses.

“Under Eliptico’s leadership, NMC staff members, faculty, and students worked together and saw growth in enrollment even after the worst typhoon to hit NMC,” Cepeda said.

College employees also commended Eliptico for a “job well done” as interim president.

“I’ve been here at NMC for more than 20 years, and during that time, interim president Frankie was one of the few people I saw that made a true difference,” said NMC employee Robert Suzuki.

Alexis Cabrera, who heads the Office of Student Activities and Leadership and the Staff Senate president, said they were able to deal with major

obstacles under Eliptico’s leadership.

“Under Frankie’s leadership, we were able to deal head-on with major obstacles like the destruction of NMC’s campus by Super Typhoon Yutu and the austerity measures. He has done so many great things for the college as the interim president,” said Cabrera.

Eliptico was appointed interim president in August 2018 just a few weeks before Yutu. Since then, Eliptico has been overseeing recovery efforts that include several construction activities. Under his leadership, the college has secured funding for new buildings and facilities.

Despite these challenges, the college saw one of its highest enrollments this past fall semester.

## NEW

From Page 1

recovery and infrastructure projects in the CNMI.

Called the Infrastructure and Recovery Program, it will be a new program under the Governor’s Office and will handle nearly a billion dollars’ worth of projects that will all be completed in the next several years.

Speaking at a radio news briefing, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres announced that that day, Friday, was Concepcion-Teregeyo’s last day as Department of Public Lands secretary because starting today, Monday, she will be the coordinator of the Infrastructure and Recovery Program. He said he will be appointing a new DPL secretary in the next couple of weeks.

At the same news briefing, Concepcion-Teregeyo said she is sad to leave “a great bunch of hardworking, highly motivated employees on the Tinian, Rota, Saipan office.” She said she will use her background and experience in her new position to help move all of the infrastructure funds that are coming in.

“So it’s just a wonderful opportunity to help in a new capacity. I’m really, really appreciative and humbled for the opportunity,” she said.

Torres said the IRP will have three directors—one for procurement, one for permitting, and one for construction management/engineering. Engineering will have several civil, mechanical, structural, and electrical engineers. Permitting will have biologists, an environmental planner, a master planner, and an archeologist. Procurement is going to have a couple of attorneys who will be focusing on the procurement process, making sure the contracts are done right to expedite these contracts.

The governor said the IRP will assist the Disaster Relief-Public Assistance and hazard mitigation projects and will move forward projects such as with the Northern Marias College, the Public School System, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and road projects such as Route 36 and 35.

Torres added that they also have hundreds of millions of dollars in American Recovery Plan Act funds that need to be spent in the next couple of years.

“We’re really excited. This will be giving an opportunity for our folks on Rota, Tinian, Saipan, and the Northern Islands,” the governor said.

Torres said the IRP also falls un-

der the Governor’s Economic Advisors Council that he formed in May last year.

The governor said the current workforce in all the departments are already stretched thin by the federal funding under the current federal programs, hence the need to create the new office.

With \$444 million under Disaster Relief, plus the hazard mitigation and public assistance programs of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and then the additional \$500 million that the CNMI will be getting from ARPA, the local capacity would not be able to sustain and meet the requirements, he said. “This is the reason why we created this new office... to assist the departments streamline,” Torres said.

He said they will also work with the Marianas Visitors Authority to look at the tourism sites because they want the CNMI to have world-class tourism. “We need a full transformation,” Torres said.

The governor said he is confident that the IRP is the right office to streamline the process, the procurement, and then eventually the construction management.

“I’m very excited with the construction management part because we... will be having a full office. Engineers will be going out with enforcement agencies to go with this construction and make sure that the contract that they signed is done appropriately in a timely manner,” he said. “We want to make sure that we hire the right people for these projects. I want to make sure that we have our projects moving forward in a timely manner.”

Torres said Concepcion-Teregeyo, as DPL secretary, has done a phenomenal job in moving forward on many land compensations. He said there’s still a lot of issues at DPL that needs to be addressed, but Concepcion-Teregeyo has done a “phenomenal job” on the homestead program, the real estate program, land claims program, and other programs at the department.

Torres believes Concepcion-Teregeyo will be able to help the CNMI tremendously in her new role, since she has also been at the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and is familiar with the permitting process. With her position at DPL, Concepcion-Teregeyo is also familiar with the procurement process, he added.

“I am sad to see her leave [DPL]... but she’ll be part of the part of the administration in a very different, but fruitful program,” Torres said.

## PSS

From Page 1

gorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) disclosed over the weekend in his e-kilili newsletter that the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service approved the Marianas plan to provide an estimated \$11.1 million to approximately 11,650 Marianas children through the P-EBT program.

“This is great news for Marianas families with children who would have otherwise received a free or reduced-price school lunch were it not for COVID-19 closures,” Sablan said.

The delegate said the PSS and DCCA will issue P-EBT benefits through printed coupons to households with eligible children.

Macaranas said this is not necessarily a DCCA program all by itself as they are only partnering with PSS Child Nutrition Program.

Macaranas said under the Family’s First Coronavirus Response Act, a P-EBT program was installed in the law where benefit will be pro-

vided to children who lost access to school meals.

“And so because the Child Nutrition Program provides school meals, they are part of this program. So we’re working in tandem, and we’re working in partnership [with Child Nutrition Program],” he said.

Macaranas said the program’s beneficiaries are divided into the school-aged children cluster and young children cluster. School-aged children are essentially the ones that are enrolled in school, and that could cover from pre-school to grade 12. For the young children cluster, that would be children who are in childcare and children under 6 years old.

Macaranas said that children have to be NAP recipients to receive P-EBT benefits.

He said the applications, which will be given to the students, need to be submitted to the Child Nutrition Program Office on Capital Hill Building 1251 or at the NAP office in As Lito.

The administrator said the role of the Child Nutrition Program of the Public School System is to determine eligibility, while and the role for NAP

is to distribute those benefits.

Macaranas said they’re looking at end of June as their distribution date.

He said they are going to be handing out the benefits on a staggered basis and not in one lump sum because they don’t want to overwhelm stores. “With all these purchases, all the stores will have their shelves emptied out,” he said.

He said they are going to distribute in June the benefits for the months of August to November. In July they will be distributing the benefits for December through March. In August they will distribute benefits for the months of April to June.

Roberts said parents are allowed to pick up the applications, but PSS is still going to be distributing them to the children when they’re in school this week. “So the parents don’t need to feel they have to rush to a school to pick up an application,” Roberts said. “There’s no hurry to run and get an application. They’re coming to the house.”

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## POSITIVES

From Page 1

to the isolation area for monitoring. The CHCC Communicable Disease Investigation/Inspection team has already initiated contact tracing for the most immediate contacts of the new confirmed cases, including passengers on the same flights.

Separately, speaking at a radio news briefing last Friday, CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña said a new team of vaccinators who will help with the vaccination campaign arrived on Saipan last week Thursday. They are from NuWest, a

team of travelling nurses. They will be running the vaccination site at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe and the Medical Care and Treatment Site at the upper CHCC parking lot, and they will also help with the village outreach.

According to Muña, they are committed to campaigning for COVID-19 vaccinations because they want to prevent more deaths. When the CNMI had its two COVID-19 deaths, both victims weren’t vaccinated.

“I’m sure if they had a choice, they would have been vaccinated, if it was available. At this point right now, we’re looking at India [and]

what’s happening in India. ...We are so fortunate to have vaccines availability. I hope that everyone will take advantage of that, so that they can continue to be safe,” said Muña.

Also, CHCC announced that they will be working with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce as part of the Private-Public Partnership initiative to provide incentives for those who are fully vaccinated.

As for the ineligible population, Muña says the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Federal Drug Administration will soon decide if the younger population (16 years and below) can safely get vaccinated.



# Docomo assures 'new and exciting TV solution' on Tinian

By JUSTINE NAUTA

justine\_nauta@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

After years in the making, Docomo Pacific recently announced that Tinian residents

will soon see a "new, exciting and affordable TV solution" on the island called dTV+, according to CNMI Docomo Pacific general manager Pauline Johnson.

Johnson said in an email statement that TV services currently being offered on Saipan and Rota will soon be available to Tinian residents as Docomo has been work-

ing on a better solution, rather than fixing "what they used to have."

"We work hard to provide the television content that you know and love at a price that

is easier to afford. dTV+ is being offered at less than half the price of traditional cable TV and our teams are working to bring it to the people of Tinian soon," said Johnson.

Recently, a Tinian resident contacted *Saipan Tribune* for more answers on why there are limited services on the island since Super Typhoon Yutu hit back in October 2018. The resident raised concerns that they feel neglected since it's been more than two years already since they had cable TV on Tinian.

When asked for comments, Docomo issued the following statement: "We are always disappointed when we don't meet our customers' expectations. For our loyal customers [on] Tinian, we want to extend our apologies for not restoring your cable TV services to pre-[Super] Typhoon Yutu status. Instead of restoring what you used to have, we've been working on a better solution."

That solution, according to Docomo Pacific, is dTV+.

Separately, Tinian Mayor

Edwin P. Aldan said he has been in contact with Docomo and they had informed him about a wireless cable system that is currently being fine-tuned. Aldan commends Docomo for working hard to provide cable services for customers on Tinian and is hopeful that cable services will soon be connected again.

"They are working hard to have cable service for their customers on Tinian. I know two years is too long and I really hope that they start connecting our cables back," said Aldan.

Johnson acknowledged that there are some unhappy customers on Tinian but assures that Docomo is working on a better solution for its customers. Docomo also attempted to reach out to the resident. "We were hoping to have the chance to personally address the customer and his concerns; unfortunately, we will respect his decision to remain anonymous and not be addressed," said the Docomo Pacific statement.

## Ohala Foundation holds drive to help launch Rota office



JOSHUA SANTOS

Ohala Foundation co-founder Phillip Mendiola-Long, center left, poses with foundation members and Ohala Foundation Warriors (volunteers) last Saturday at the pavilion across Modern Office Supply. The food, drinks, clothes, and money collected over the weekend will go toward helping the foundation launch its Rota office by the end of May.

By JOSHUA SANTOS

joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Volunteers and members of the Ohala Foundation collected donations—food, drinks, and clothing—last Friday and Saturday at the pavilion across Modern Stationary and via a roadside donation collection at the San Jose intersection in front of Atkins-Kroll Toyota Saipan to help launch the foundation's Rota office.

The foundation will open its Rota office and hold its first Ohala Food Bank on Rota on May 29 and everything collected last Friday and Saturday will be taken back to Rota.

Initially created after seeing

the need for help on Tinian after Super Typhoon Yutu back in 2018, the Ohala Foundation today runs a biweekly food bank, a thrift shop-style program called the Ohala Clothing Closet, and the Ohala Healing Program, which seeks to provide financial assistance to families in medical emergencies and to purchase medical equipment for rural hospitals on the islands. According to Ohala Foundation co-founder Phillip Mendiola-Long, the Tinian-based non-profit has thus far held 14 food distributions on Tinian and has given away over 14,000 meals on Tinian alone.

"A lot of times, families are a little bit ashamed to ac-

cept help. ... [With Ohala] you don't have to meet certain salary caps, you don't have to show two years, three years of taxes, you just show up and get food. That's what we're trying to do, and that's why we think we're successful," said Mendiola-Long.

The foundation previously held a donation drive to help launch the Tinian office in November last year and will hold a donation drive to launch a Saipan office sometime in September. The Ohala Foundation's Saipan office is expected to be open around October and November this year.

For those who were unable to donate last Friday and Sat-

urday, Mendiola-Long advises them to visit the Ohala Foundation website at [ohalafoundation.org](http://ohalafoundation.org) or to call 670-433-2664 and ask for Ed Arriola, who is an Ohala Foundation board member on Saipan who can help arrange for a pick-up or drop-off of donations. The Ohala Foundation is also on Instagram @ohala.foundation.

Mendiola-Long thanks the foundation's current sponsors: Marpac, Mobil Oil Marianas, the Henghua Group, and the First Baptist Church of Columbus, Georgia and is open to more corporate sponsorships and cross-branding and cross-marketing opportunities in the future.

## PSS student rep pushes changes to drive-thru graduation for 2021

By JUSTINE NAUTA

justine\_nauta@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Speaking on behalf of Public School System students, PSS student representative Rainalyn Reyes asked the Board of Education last Tuesday for a few changes to their drive-thru graduation.

During a meeting of the BOE Committee on Student Issues, Community, and Parental Programs, Reyes raised some possible changes to the drive-thru graduation for the Class of 2021, including allowing the graduating students to get down from their cars to pose for pictures at the podium.

Though she understands that it's a "done deal" for a drive-thru graduation, Reyes says there are many students who have been "wanting and pushing" for a more traditional graduation this year.

"A lot of students have been wanting and pushing, asking

around if everyone would agree on a traditional graduation but I understand that it's a done deal. I just want to bring up how our students are sad that we don't do the traditional, but we hope that, apart from how we did it last year, there's some few changes," said Reyes.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, BOE chair Andrew Orsini said many graduating students have expressed a desire to have a traditional graduation—an in-person graduation—with some limitations that fit into the COVID-19 guidelines.

Orsini said the conversation whether to have an in-person graduation or not was brought up in a previous board meeting, with students and parents wanting a "more formal graduation ceremony" for the students. He said if BOE and PSS will accommodate that, then Rota and Tinian will also be having an in-person graduation.

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# Marianas tourism month events set for May

In celebration of May Tourism Month, the Marianas Visitors Authority has organized a series of community events to celebrate and support the primary economic driver of The Marianas.

"More than ever during this time of COVID-19, we have seen the importance of tourism to our Marianas economy and the well-being of our community," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "We invite everyone to join us in celebrating the industry during May Tourism Month as we reflect on all we've overcome as a tourism community, express gratitude for where we are today, and plan for the resumption of international tourism soon."

A proclamation signing ceremony declaring May as Tourism Month was held last May 4 at the Office of the Governor.

The MVA is holding a high school student essay contest. (See sidebar)

The Hafa Adai/Tirow Pledge program will be launched this month, inviting companies, organizations, and individuals to make a deeper commitment and take more responsibility to develop, promote, and support the Hafa Adai/Tirow Spirit in the Marianas. Taking the pledge means



File photo shows students of Tinian Elementary School taking a tour of Blowhole and other island tourist sites during Marianas Tourism Month in 2017.

uniting in the preservation and promotion of the Chamorro and Carolinian languages, culture, and traditions. It encourages pledge-takers to explore ways to do this by using the languages, using indigenous

images and artwork, being educated on historical sites, and more. The Hafa Adai/Tirow Pledge unites all people of the Marianas in celebrating its unique way of life and sharing it with the world.

The public will also have the chance to win Tourism Month T-shirts and gift cards by correctly answering tourism-related trivia questions on radio station Power 99 (97.5 FM) and KMCV7.

On Tinian, a Tourist for a Day educational field trip on May 28 will educate youth through firsthand experience of how tourism affects everyone in the islands. This will mainly target third-graders who will be given a tour of beaches, cultural and historical sites and learn about the responsibility of MVA in preserving this areas. The photo competition "My Favorite Island Treasure Glimpses" invites people to take a picture of a Tinian attraction and provide a caption.

On Rota, Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically, or MYWAVE, students will join the MVA in cleaning up beaches on

the island.

The Walk for Tourism will be held on the morning of May 22 on Saipan. Registration is free, and the first 100 registrants will receive a Tourism Month T-shirt. Participants are encouraged to wear tourism- and travel-inspired costumes to win prizes. Further details on Tourism Month activities will be announced as confirmed.

The public is invited to join a cleanup organized by the Japan-Saipan Travel Association on May 29 at 10am at the Last Command Post in Marpi.

For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/Visit-TheMarianas](https://www.facebook.com/Visit-TheMarianas) or contact MVA community projects specialist Jack Aranda at 664-3200/1 or [communityprojects@mymarianas.com](mailto:communityprojects@mymarianas.com). (MVA)



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, third from left front row, and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, third from left back row, are joined by tourism stakeholders who pose for a photo outside the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill last Tuesday following the signing of a proclamation declaring May as Tourism Month.

JUSTINE NAUTA

## High school essay contest talks tourism

In celebration of May Tourism Month, the Marianas Visitors Authority is holding a high school student essay contest, awarding cash prizes for the top entries.

The theme—"Power of Travel: COVID19 Impact and Tourism Recovery in The Marianas"—invites students to describe how COVID-19 has impacted the Marianas tourism community and share their thoughts how the Marianas should move forward with tourism recovery.

"Young people are the future of the Marianas and the future of our tourism economy," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "We'd love to hear their thoughts on the industry, especially their understanding of how COVID-19 has impacted it and what they think are the actions that would best make The Marianas an attractive and desirable place to visit as international travel resumes."

Entries must be in Microsoft Word and not more than 600 words. Entries must be received by 5pm on May 25, 2021, and must be submitted to [communityprojects@mymarianas.com](mailto:communityprojects@mymarianas.com) with a parent consent form (downloadable at [www.facebook.com/Visit-TheMarianas](https://www.facebook.com/Visit-TheMarianas)). Entries must

include the student's name, grade, school, and email address. Prizes are: \$300 for first place, \$200 for second place, and \$100 for third place. Winners will be contacted via email and announced on the MVA's official Facebook page, "Visit The Marianas," on May 31, 2021, at 12pm. The contest is open to all public and private school students grades 9-12 in the Marianas.

Other activities for Tourism Month include the launch of the Hafa Adai/Tirow Pledge program, tourism-related trivia questions on Power 99 (97.5 FM) and KSPN2, a Walk for Tourism on May 22, and a cleanup lead by the Japan-Saipan Travel Association on May 29 in Marpi. Activities on Tinian also include a Tourist for a Day educational field trip, a photo competition, and the Simply Clean and Green cleanup at tourist sites. On Rota, Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically students will join the MVA in cleaning up beaches on the island.

For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/Visit-TheMarianas](https://www.facebook.com/Visit-TheMarianas) or contact MVA community projects specialist Jack Aranda at 664-3200/1 or [communityprojects@mymarianas.com](mailto:communityprojects@mymarianas.com). (MVA)



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT JVA No. 21 – 039

Opening Date: April 30, 2021 • Closing Date: May 13, 2021

<b>POSITION TITLE:</b>	Safety Compliance Technician
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Tinian Administration
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Tinian, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
<b>ANNUAL SALARY:</b>	\$20,826.00 - \$28,115.00 per annum, Non - Exempt
<b>CONTRACT:</b>	Not Contracted
<b>POSITION(S):</b>	One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Tinian Resident Manager or his/her designee.

#### Duties:

- Performs and assists with facility and site inspections to review and monitor compliance with safety and environmental regulations and standards; prepares and issues citations for corrective actions to address compliance violations.
- Responds to incidents and emergencies and assists with ensuring compliance with laws, rules and regulations; follows up to ensure issues are resolved and procedures are followed.
- Prepares incident and accident reports to document issues and corrective actions.
- Monitors equipment and supplies inventory; requests replacement stock to replenish inventory levels; ensures stock supply and preparedness for responding to oil spills or related incidents.
- Conducts or assists with a variety of informational workshops and/or orientations.
- Reviews project specifications and monitors field project work as needed.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

#### Minimum Requirements:

**Education:** High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS and based on assignment, up to 2 years of related work experience.

**Knowledge of:** Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Investigative techniques; Mitigation procedures; Safe work practices and procedures; Customer service principles; Modern office technology.

**Skills in:** Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing inspections to monitor safety and environmental compliance; Responding to emergency incidents to ensure corrective actions and proper procedures are followed; Monitoring equipment and supply inventory; Conducting and assisting with informational workshops and orientations; Reviewing project specifications and monitoring project work; Providing customer service; Preparing reports and related activity documentation; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

#### Licensing:

- Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.
- Hazmat and OSHA Certifications (Position may require)

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

**How to Apply:** Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, from Monday through Friday (Except Legal Holidays), 7:30 am – 4:30 pm. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: [employment.applications@cucgov.org](mailto:employment.applications@cucgov.org)

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### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Jaypee N. Baysa	) FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION
Petitioner,	) NO. 21-0113
vs.	) SUMMONS FOR
	) PUBLICATION
Qiaoling T. Baysa	)
Respondent,	)

#### TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 504318 Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021.

/s/ Clerk of Court



# Kilili to lead congressional committee hearing on Insular Cases

WASHINGTON D.C.—The full Natural Resources Committee of the U.S. Congress, led by vice chair Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), will hold a legislative hearing on H. Res. 279, the “Insular Cases Resolution,” this Wednesday, May 12, at 1pm Eastern time (3am,

Thursday, CNMI time).

H.R. 279, which recognizes that the legal arguments used to deny rights and benefits to citizens living in U.S. territories are based on the discriminatory and unconstitutional principle of “separate but equal,” was introduced by committee chair Rep. Raúl M.

Grijalva (D-Ariz.) and has bipartisan support.

Specifically, H.R. 279 seeks to acknowledge that the U.S. Supreme Court’s decisions in the Insular Cases are contrary to the text and history of the United States Constitution, rest on racial views and stereotypes from the era of Plessy v. Ferguson that have long been rejected, and should be rejected as having no place in United States constitutional law.

“The insular cases belong to a very dark chapter of U.S. history, when doctrines of ‘separate and unequal’ and attitudes about racial inferiority explicitly defined the country’s laws,” said Grijalva last week in a statement to the Guam Legislature. “We cannot erase this harmful past, but as legislators we have an obligation to make sure its legacy does not extend into the future.”

Despite its antiquated reasoning, the territorial incorporation doctrine resulting from the Insular Cases continues to be cited by federal courts to this day as justification to deny territory residents ac-



**Sablan**

cess to federal programs, fair taxation, and voting rights. Though this resolution would not overturn the decisions in the Insular Cases, this historic resolution would establish that the House of Representatives formally believes they should not be treated as precedent.

Invited witnesses include Rep. Stacey E. Plaskett (D-V.I.); Dr. Daniel Immerwahr, professor, Department of History, Northwestern University; Neil Weare, president, Equally American; vice Speaker Tina Muña Barnes, Guam Legislature;

Rose Cuison-Villazor, professor of Law and Chancellor’s Social Justice Scholar, Rutgers University.

Watch the hearing at: <https://bit.ly/3bc4C1l> (Facebook) or [https://youtu.be/\\_ZYBMHLn1mM](https://youtu.be/_ZYBMHLn1mM) (YouTube).

## Historic hearing

Last week, the Guam Legislature held an historic public hearing in support of H.R. 279 that condemned the Insular Cases as rooted in racial animus that established an unprecedented colonial framework for inhabitants of Guam and other U.S. territories.

The hearing brought together an array of current and former elected officials, national and international legal experts, and community activists for a wide-ranging conversation on the importance of finally turning the page on the Insular Cases as a way to help bring an end to Guam’s colonial

status. The hearing focused on the Guam Legislature’s Resolution 56-36, introduced by Guam’s vice speaker Tina Muña Barnes and a bipartisan group of five other senators.

Weare was one of the experts invited to testify. “We appreciate vice speaker Muña Barnes efforts to make Guam a leader in pushing back against the Insular Cases,” Weare said. “The Guam Legislature’s actions here should serve as a model for other territorial and even state legislatures to condemn the Insular Cases and the ongoing second-class treatment faced by the 3.5 million residents of U.S. territories—98% of whom are racial or ethnic minorities.”

Guam Gov. Lourdes “Lou” Leon Guerrero and CNMI Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) submitted written testimonies in support of the resolutions that were read into the record. **(PR)**

## Elayda-Sampang graduates from basic training

U.S. Air Force airman Norlyn Joy “NJ” Elayda-Sampang recently graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in San Antonio, Texas.



**Elayda-Sampang**

Elayda-Sampang, a 2017 graduate of Saipan Southern High School, completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare

principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Elayda-Sampang is the daughter of Joey Elayda and Noralyn Paras, sister of Bianca Katherine and Joey Christian Elayda, as well as the wife of a fellow airman, Edilberto “BJ” Sampang. **(PR)**



**DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES**  
CNMI GOVERNMENT

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SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 01, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

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COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ VIRGINIA C. VILLAGOMEZ**  
GOVERNOR’S AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

**/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON**  
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

**A NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS SOCIAL SERVICE**  
**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**



**(1) EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAM**  
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DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: Complete application form, copy of diploma/degree, resume/bio-data; current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of valid CNMI driver’s license.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality**

Division of Coastal Resources Management  
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315  
[www.dcrm.gov.mp](http://www.dcrm.gov.mp)

**AMENDMENT**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**INVASIVE UNGULATE CONTROL WITH**  
**PLANT MANAGEMENT ON AGUIGUAN ISLAND**  
**COASTAL PERMIT NO. TMS-2021-025**

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed Invasive Ungulate Control with Plant Management Project on Aguiguan Island.

The Office of the Mayor of Tinian is proposing to implement control measures on the effects of taking of the Micronesian megapode on Aguiguan Island. The Micronesian megapode (Megapodius laperouse) is a federally and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) listed endangered species. The purpose of this project is to create additional megapode habitat on Aguiguan Island, followed by plant management, and assist in ungulate control. Additional proposals include restoring forest habitat by installing fence units, and planting native overstory trees to regenerate naturally.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled for Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 5:00 PM. The venue for this hearing will be conducted at the Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria in San Jose, Tinian.

COVID-19 protocols will be implemented and all participants are required to wear a mask at all times. Participants may join virtually via Google Meet by accessing [meet.google.com/kao-aft-dij](https://meet.google.com/kao-aft-dij).

Written comments can be submitted by mail to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, sent by fax to 664-8315, or emailed to [permitting@dcrm.gov.mp](mailto:permitting@dcrm.gov.mp). The project files are open and can be reviewed by scheduling an appointment with DCRM. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Invasive Ungulate Control with Plant Management Project.

**/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO**  
Director  
Division of Coastal Resources Management

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building  
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220  
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (“CUC”) Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold a **Special Board meeting** on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

**AGENDA\***

- I. Preliminary Matters
  - A. Call to Order
  - B. Roll Call
  - C. Reading of the Notice of the Agenda
  - D. Adoption of Agenda
- II. Chief Financial Officer’s Report
- III. Update Report on Water
- IV. Procurement Matters
- V. Chief Financial Officer’s Employment Contract
- VI. Release of Restricted Funds for Engine replacement and PP#1.
- VII. Public Comments\*
- VIII. Executive Session\*\*  
(Consultation with Legal Counsel)
- IX. Adjournment

**/s/ MIRANDA V. MANGLONA, CHAIRPERSON**  
CUC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

\* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda maybe modified during the meeting.  
\*\* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building  
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220  
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (“CUC”) Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular board meeting on Thursday, May 12, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

**PROPOSED AGENDA\***

- I. Preliminary Matters
  - A. Call to Order
  - B. Roll Call
  - C. Adoption of Agenda
  - D. Adoption of Minutes
    1. February 26, 2021 Regular Board Meeting
    2. March 4, 2021 Special Board Meeting
  - E. Correspondence
- II. Management Reports
  - A. Executive Director’s Report
  - B. Chief Financial Officer’s Report
- III. Committee Reports
- IV. Old Business - Updates
  - A. Power Plant, DE5 and DE7
  - B. CHCC Billing/Payment
- V. New Business
  - A. Chief Financial Officer’s Employment Contract
- VI. Public Comments\*\*
- VII. Executive Session\*\*\*
- VIII. Announcements
- IX. Adjournment

**/s/ MIRANDA V. MANGLONA, Chairwoman**

\* In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by a recorded vote of the majority members of the governing body.  
\*\* All interested persons are welcome to attend, and submit written and oral testimony on the above-agenda items. Public Comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes.  
\*\*\* Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the CUC Board of Directors may vote to meet at any time in executive session, in consultation with the Legal Counsel on matters deemed privileged and confidential.



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
Volume XXXI, Issue No. 91Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR  
editor@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Facebook board right on Trump suspension, but now the hard part

**F**acebook's Oversight Board made the right call Wednesday upholding the social media giant's suspension of Donald Trump's account.

The former president's potential to incite violence and his irresponsible spewing of misinformation justified his removal.

That said, the decision highlights how much work Facebook still has to do to fulfill its role as a responsible conduit of news and social discourse.

The Oversight Board consists of 20 members with a broad range of expertise, including attorneys, civic leaders and journalists. Its findings included a blistering criticism of the indefinite nature of Facebook's January ban, calling it a "vague, standardless penalty." It gave Facebook six months to come up with a policy that would either justify permanently suspending Trump's account, limiting the penalty to a specific period of time or restoring the account.

That Facebook didn't come up with such a policy years ago is appalling. The social media platform was founded in 2004 and has been dealing with Trump's tactics for the better part of the last decade. But it still hasn't developed a credible, working policy for dealing with those who potentially incite violence and constantly spread disinformation. Nor is it transparent about how it decides who should and shouldn't have an online voice.

Mark Zuckerberg doesn't have to be the ultimate "arbiter of truth." But he does have a responsibility to ensure the accuracy of information shared on Facebook and eliminate posts that contain dangerous misinformation or incite violence or hate.

Admittedly, the challenge is complex. And fixing Facebook wouldn't solve the entire problem. For example, on Tuesday, Trump unveiled a new web site, "From the desk of Donald J. Trump," that mirrors his former Twitter feeds and provides his followers fodder to share on social media sites.

Facebook has an estimated 2.8 billion users who post hundreds of millions of items every day. But this is a company with a market cap of \$720 billion. It has the resources to take on the issues created by its own innovation.

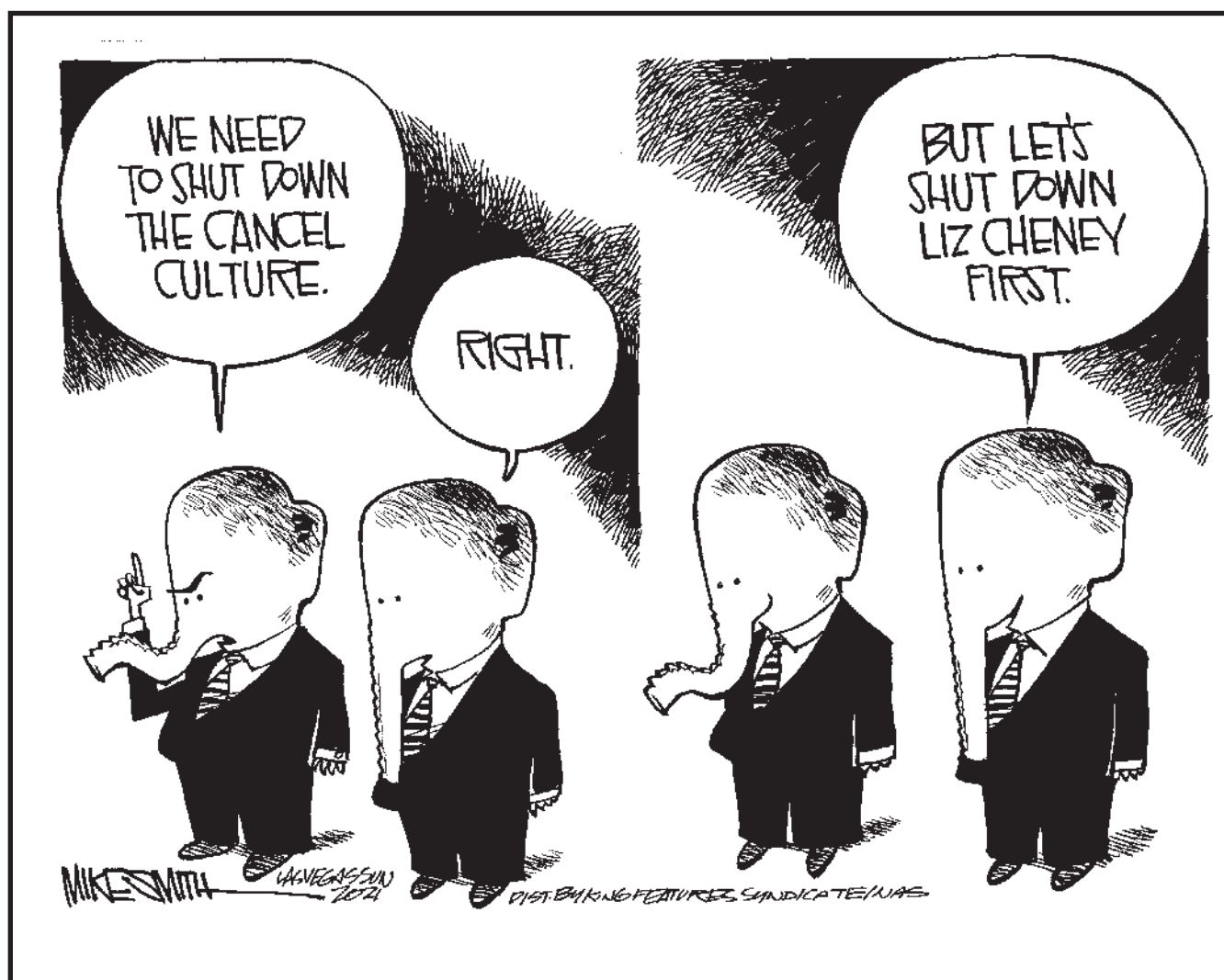
The alternative isn't particularly attractive. If Zuckerberg and other social media companies such as Twitter and YouTube don't clean up their act, government intervention is inevitable and necessary. Congress has a long history of not fully understanding how the tech industry works. Regulation carries the risk of making the problem even worse.

Facebook's original decision to initiate the Trump ban was a step in the right direction. Now it needs to aggressively stop publishing false information on issues ranging from climate change to the safety of vaccines.

The social media company's efforts to debunk misinformation by expanding the amount of scientific information available is welcome. But as a major conduit for news—two-thirds of Americans at least occasionally get their news from social media—Facebook must take additional steps to ensure accuracy and eliminate dangerous misinformation.

Just because something is hard and a potential drain on profits doesn't negate the company's obligation to the public.

(c)2021 the San Jose Mercury News (San Jose, Calif.)



## India's COVID-19 tragedy has lessons for global vaccinations. Hint: It's not by waiving vaccine patents

**A**s America beats back COVID-19 with vaccines, the catastrophe in India reminds us that much of the world's population has yet to receive a shot.

Coping with a virulent second wave of the virus, desperate Indians plead for oxygen tanks for their loved ones. Mass cremations of victims barely cope with more than 300,000 new cases daily, but less than 4% of nearly 1.4 billion people have gotten their first jab.

India has rightly become a tragic reminder that the United States and the developed world must do much more to help citizens of poorer nations get vaccinated. The urgency is not just humanitarian but also medical—to prevent new variants from spreading here.

So the surprise announcement Wednesday that the Biden administration will support waiving patent protections for coronavirus vaccines—a development cheered by many Democratic legislators and health activists—might seem to some like an appropriate response to the suffering in India. Proponents of this argue that many poorer countries will now be able to manufacture their own generic vaccines.

Sadly, the Indian case offers a very different lesson. Waiving patent protections for COVID-19 vaccines will do little in the short term to help Indians obtain mega-millions of doses. As for helping other countries, this hot-button issue distracts from what the United States must do ASAP to help get vaccines to the world.

Let me state up front that this is not a column about supporting or opposing Big Pharma. It is an effort to avoid the trap of assuming that if a patent waiver angers pharmaceutical companies that were aided with billions of U.S. taxpayer dollars, this automatically means it will aid poorer countries.

I'm looking past this symbolic gesture at the facts on the ground.

So back to the lessons from India.

"If the discussion is solely focused on waivers, it is the wrong one," says Thomas Bollyky, director of the global health program at the Council on Foreign Relations.

The issue of whether to protect pharmaceutical companies' intellectual property rights, says Bollyky, "has played a small role

**By TRUDY RUBIN**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the The Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at [trubin@phillynews.com](mailto:trubin@phillynews.com).



in what has happened in India. If we focus totally on it, we're missing the lessons of what happened there."

Indeed, India had access to vaccine knowledge. Three of the major vaccine developers, Johnson & Johnson, AstraZeneca and Novavax, had already signed voluntary licensing agreements last year with Indian manufacturers to share their technologies and know-how, as did the Russian manufacturers of the Sputnik V vaccine.

Already home to the world's biggest vaccine manufacturers, including the Serum Institute of India (which can turn out 1.5 billion doses a year), India was set to become the world's largest COVID-19 vaccine producer. It had promised hundreds of millions of doses to poorer countries, to be distributed by COVAX, a global initiative aimed at equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines. The Gates Foundation provided Indian manufacturers \$300 million to scale up manufacturing.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi boasted in January that his nation would save other countries, but he never organized a vaccine campaign for his own people. Instead, the nationalist-populist leader bragged that India had beaten the virus, while abandoning his COVID-19 task force, campaigning mask-less at huge party rallies, and approving a Hindu festival with millions of worshippers packed together.

A second coronavirus wave soon exploded. India imposed an effective ban on vaccine exports, including to COVAX for lower-income countries.

Now the country most primed to export low-cost vaccines to the world is unable to ramp up sufficient supplies to vaccinate

See INDIA on Next Page



# The Philippines and the United States

The United States and the Republic of the Philippines have a longstanding relationship founded on colonialism, power imbalances, violence, deception, and positive progress that remains at once a complex, divergent, and convergent environment. The bilateral relationship's historical cornerstone is the Mutual Defense Treaty signed in 1951 and ratified by both national legislative bodies. Approximately 40% of the 10 million Filipinos residing outside the Philippines currently live and work throughout the American imperial landscape to include the Marianas.

## Today's Philippines military

The Philippines has its own marine corps, navy, air force and army with a total military personnel count equal to less than 10% of the total number of American military personnel worldwide. The Philippine military obtains much of its weaponry from South Korea while the United States provides some used military equipment and billions in foreign military sales. U.S. and Philippine intelligence communities maintain robust arrangements, underscoring the depth of this strategic relationship. Yet the Philippine military also trains with Russian military forces and Putin's Pacific Fleet makes port calls in the Philippines.

## The Philippine president

President Rodrigo Duterte was elected four years ago. Considered an iconoclast of sorts, Duterte is readily identified as a vociferous reader, former mayor, and previous longtime supporter of strongman Ferdinand Marcos. He is also accused as being the main sponsor of the extrajudicial killings of drug kingpins taking place throughout the archipelago.

Duterte is currently faced with the decision to possibly delay the termination for the third consecutive time of the American-Philippine Visiting Forces Agreement, or VFA, that was originally established in 1998. The VFA gives the United States control over its military personnel while in-country and outlines processes and procedures on how to handle a variety of situations that may arise.

Duterte is once again caught in a quagmire. On the one hand, Duterte thinks that the United States remains too deeply enmeshed in Philippine domestic affairs. He also interprets the VFA to be a

document that was never intended to extend into perpetuity. Yet both the United States and the Philippines share mutual geopolitical interests such as sitting on several of the same multinational organizations to include the World Bank, the World Trade Organization, and the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

This common thread is contrasted with the United States being publicly critical of the extrajudicial killing spree brought against many of the country's most dangerous drug dealers sponsored by Duterte's administration. No one really knows how all these competing currents will alter, if at all, the tenor and import of the Mutual Defense Treaty, should a hot conflict erupt between the Philippines and China.

Geographical location continues to have enormous sway with regards to how Duterte views his role as president. Because of the Philippines' proximity to China and its location bordering the South China Sea, the Philippine president must contend with China's growing maritime control of the area that includes the penetration and imposition of China's will throughout the Philippines' Exclusive Economic Zone.

At the same time, Philippine trade relations with China is valued close to \$50 billion, larger than the \$30-billion trade value with the United States. China came to the aid of the Philippines by supplying COVID-19 vaccines that have gotten into the arms of tens of millions of Filipinos. China has provided domestic infrastructure funding to the Philippines and has refrained from openly criticizing the Philippine president over extrajudicial killings of drug dealers.

## Military theater cooperation is still what this is all about

Military centric theater cooperation is the fundamental factor driving the current relationship between the Philippines and the United States, as evidenced by the several hundred bilateral military training events taking place each year. Non-military government to government partnerships that include U.S. Veterans Administration medical support for Americans living in-country, and extensive educational initiatives are relatively small in comparison to military related partnering.

## How the Northern Marianas and Guam may be affected

Understanding the consequential nature of the VFA may be key

## RICK'S COLUMN

By RICK PEREZ

Special to the Saipan Tribune



*Rick Perez used to serve in the U.S. military and has work experiences in public policy research and public affairs. He is passionate about national security and geopolitics and runs a newsletter called Guam Affairs at [guamaffairs.substack.com](mailto:guamaffairs.substack.com). For questions or comments, contact Perez at [rickp7839@gmail.com](mailto:rickp7839@gmail.com).*

to interpreting present day Philippine and American interests for our ancient Chamorro Pacific Islander civilization. If the VFA is wiped away, it will have real implications for America's ability to train for war more effectively against China and it would signal to other Asian allies that China is becoming more and more influential.

One first order consequence of this is Guam and the Northern Marianas may see the Pentagon further beef up Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps presence to train for war. Another consequence of a failed VFA would be that other island chains throughout the Micronesian region will be affected in an accelerated manner because of America's enduring interest in building out a deeper and more widely distributed military operational footprint to dissuade, defend, and initiate kinetic operations against China.

Yet short of war, the longtime goodwill and economic relations between the Marianas and the Philippines will not be affected. The Chamorro people of our island chain and the Filipino populace have too many historical, cultural, religious, family ties, and social practices in common.

U.S. President Joe Biden reemphasized in his remarks given the other week to both chambers of Congress that America's deep commitment toward ensuring U.S. military primacy in the broad Pacific Asia region is unwavering. Perhaps this is the most consequential political weather vane to gauge and follow in terms of American strategic intent and associated likelihoods for kill chain responses.

# Are we headed for another government shutdown?

Actions have consequences. So do inactions. Take the defense budget, which the White House is turning into a poster child for procrastination—a practice that threatens the security of all Americans.

In fact, the Senate has decided it can't wait any longer and tore up its schedule to focus on nominations this month, instead of budget review. Rep. Adam Smith, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, recently warned that receipt of the administration's defense budget past mid-May makes it unlikely the House will be able to produce a defense authorization or appropriation bill before the August recess.

And if they miss that mark, passage of the necessary bills by the end of the fiscal year is doubtful.

Smith is right. We need a real budget, and yesterday. Failure to pass these bills by the end of the fiscal year puts the Defense Department (and the rest of the federal government) into a continuing resolution, or worse—a shutdown—both of which would be deeply injurious to our national defense.

The Biden administration did send a preview, a so-called "skinny" budget, to Congress on April 9 providing top-level numbers. But for oversight purposes, it's useless. The section dealing with the Defense Department was devoid of details, other than to announce a reduction of \$7 billion from what the Trump administration had proposed for fiscal year 2022, and an overall \$5 billion loss in buying power from 2021 due to inflation.

Defense's section stood in sharp contrast to all the other federal departments, where the administration appeared thrilled to articulate their plans, from fighting climate change—\$6.9 bil-

lion for Commerce—to Education's \$100 million to foster diverse schools.

In comparison, the Defense portion seemed like cursory homework by a reluctant schoolchild.

Despite President Joe Biden's seemingly tough talk about China and Russia, cutting national defense while the Defense Department is trying to adapt to great power competition sends a contradictory message, both to our allies and adversaries.

Years when presidential transitions take place have normally resulted in a delay while the new team reviews the budget. Even though the outgoing administration normally prepares a complete budget, the incoming team naturally wants to at least understand it and make minor adjustments.

There have been four presidential transitions since law set the due date for the budget as the first Monday in February, and each of them has needed a delay before submitting their budget. The average number of days delayed was 82. This year, on day 82 (April 24) there was no budget in sight. If, as some report, the Biden administration delays its final budget until the end of May, it will be late by 119 days—and the congressional budget calendar, and the chances for an on-time defense budget, irretrievably upended.

2022, the first year in a decade without the guardrails of the Budget Control Act to provide fiscal benchmarks, was already shaping up to be a difficult year to achieve agreement. The lack of a presidential budget request only exacerbates the challenge.

Most should know that operating under a continuing resolution presents particular challenges for the Pentagon. New programs—such as unmanned platforms, robotics, or artificial in-

## By THOMAS SPOEHR

The Heritage Foundation



*Thomas Spoehr, a former Army Lieutenant General, is director of The Heritage Foundation's Center for National Defense.*

telligence applications—are delayed and unable to start. Fiscal uncertainty reigns and military operations are impacted. Training is slowed. As the Defense Department endeavors to pivot to compete with China and other potential adversaries, operating under a continuing resolution ties our warfighter's hands and sends the worst possible message.

What administration wouldn't want the leisure to develop a brand-new budget completely reflective of their priorities and plans? But such desires are normally tempered with the realization that there is a clock running, the heartless apparatus that cuts off federal spending on Oct. 1 and negatively affects the whole federal government.

The Biden administration needs to complete its reviews and get Congress its budget request now—before more time passes, and the chances for on-time defense funding and authorizations further diminish.

Our troops are counting on those in Washington to do their jobs, just as they are expected to do theirs. Don't let them down.

## INDIA

From Page 8

nearly 950 million people at home.

So what are the lessons from India for helping to vaccinate the world?

First, in the words of Indian American health activist Dinesh Thakur, writing in the online health journal Statnews: "There is no shortage of technology on offer or manufacturing capacity" within India. The problem in India was government mismanagement and lack of planning.

Second, the main global problem now is not patents but helping to build more regional manufacturing capacity for other countries to make vaccines, and overcoming the current shortage of raw materials.

"We need investment in the worldwide building of new production lines, which can take months or years," I was told by Ezekiel Emanuel, vice provost for global initiatives at the University of Pennsylvania.

Emanuel also argues that "the [global] attention should go to voluntary licensing" of vaccine technology, because, unlike with forced patent waivers, such licensing includes the transfer of tech know-how and experienced manpower from the original

makers. This know-how is vital because vaccine technology is a much more complex process than producing regular medicines.

(The White House could use the patent waiver threat, however, to nudge pharmaceutical companies toward more voluntary licensing or distribution of discounted vaccines.)






Third, says Emanuel, in the short term, the United States should start exporting its excess doses now to the neediest because the global need is so urgent, and we are sitting on increasing surplus.

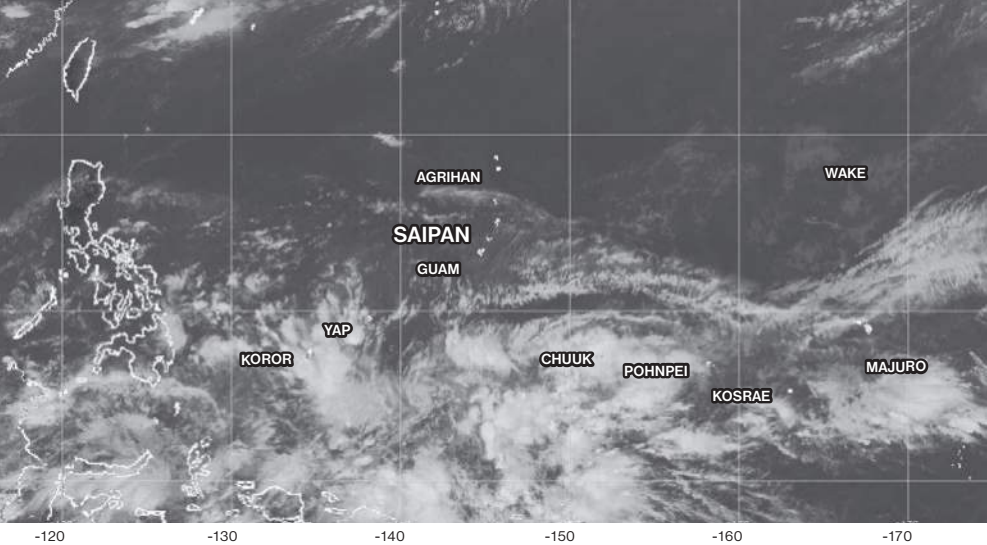
And fourth, says Bollyky, "We need a Global Operation Warp Speed" to set up global supply chains for vaccine manufacturing for now and any future pandemic.

There is no time to lose.



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. east winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly sunny with scattered showers in the morning, then mostly sunny with isolated showers in the afternoon. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers.		Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:13 AM, SUNDAY, MAY 9, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Trade-wind showers are present across the Marianas along with partly cloudy skies. Buoys are steadily falling across the region and show combined seas around 4 to 6 feet, with a primary east swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

## STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

### Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

### Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
  - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
  - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

### Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

### seconds.

If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit [www.governor.gov.mp](http://www.governor.gov.mp) and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19).

Source: Office of the Governor

### NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87   79 °F	
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	86   78 °F	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	90   72 °F	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	84   80 °F	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86   79 °F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86   80 °F	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	84   80 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:50 AM	6:36 PM
Tuesday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Wednesday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Thursday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Friday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:45 AM	5:24 PM	-
Tuesday	5:21 AM	6:12 PM	-
Wednesday	5:58 AM	7:01 PM	-
Thursday	6:39 AM	7:51 PM	-
Friday	7:22 AM	8:42 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	62   48 °F	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	85   69 °F	
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	82   74 °F	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83   72 °F	
London	Partly Cloudy	58   51 °F	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	75   60 °F	
Manila	Thunderstorms	91   79 °F	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	67   53 °F	
Miami	Thunderstorms	88   68 °F	
New York	Rain	63   59 °F	
Osaka	Rain	73   65 °F	
Paris	Partly cloudy	66   45 °F	
Pusan	Partly cloudy	79   56 °F	
Rome	Sunny	74   52 °F	
Salem	Cloudy	59   40 °F	
San Francisco	Partly cloudy	65   50 °F	
Seoul	Partly cloudy	79   52 °F	
Tokyo	Partly cloudy	72   63 °F	
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	70   56 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:47 AM	Low Tide	0.88	
6:31 AM	High Tide	1.91	
1:26 PM	Low Tide	0.31	
7:49 PM	High Tide	1.80	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 29, 2021				
DEPARTURES				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 4, 5, 6	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam	
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5	
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,	
ARRIVALS				
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 4, 5, 6	
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam	
MANILA (MNL)-GUAM				
UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5	
UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3	
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)				

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri/Sat	1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri/Sun	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri/Sat	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri/Sun	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
GUAM TO ROTA				2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



# Business

## EU, India try again to clinch trade deal, sidelining China

**PORTO, Portugal (AP)**—The European Union and India agreed Saturday to restart negotiations on a bilateral free trade deal, eight years after their first attempt failed and as both sides seek alternatives to China.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke via video-conference to EU leaders attending a summit in Portugal. The two sides announced what they called “a pivotal moment” in their relations by agreeing to resume talks they gave up on in 2013 and to collaborate on a wide range of other issues.

Speaking at a press conference after the closed-door talks, senior EU officials were thrilled by the prospect of closer ties with India.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen called it “outstanding” and “a landmark moment.” European Council President Charles Michel said Saturday’s agreement marked “a new, important chapter” in bilateral relations.

Modi was scheduled to be at the online press conference after the meeting but didn’t appear.

Plans for a face-to-face EU-India summit in Porto, in northern Portugal, fell through



**AP**  
European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen speaks during a media conference at an EU summit in Porto, Portugal, Saturday, May 8, 2021.

after Modi canceled his trip due to the devastating pandemic surge in his country. His remote appearance was the first time an Indian leader participated in a meeting with all of the EU’s leaders.

Von der Leyen said 17 EU

countries have provided more than 100 million euros (\$122 million) worth of pandemic aid to India, including oxygen generators, medicines and ventilators, and were ready to send more.

While trade talks proceed,

parallel negotiations will be held on investment protection and geographic indicators - a key interest for the EU, which places importance on protecting its distinctive products - in

order to speed up the process, von der Leyen said.

The two sides said in a six-page joint statement that they also agreed to cooperate more in areas such as supercomput-

ing for pandemic and climate change modelling, artificial intelligence and digital and transport connectivity.

Warm relations with India have an added attraction for the EU, which is eager to expand its influence in the Indo-Pacific region.

The EU’s ties with China have soured over Beijing’s treatment of its Uighur Muslim minority, leading to the suspension of the bloc’s ratification of a bilateral investment agreement.

India, meanwhile, fell out with China in a border dispute last year.

Clinching a free trade deal won’t be an easy task for EU and Indian negotiators. Six years of talks produced no agreement the last time they tried, with issues such as vehicle parts and duties on wine and spirits thwarting an agreement.

## Pandemic gives boost as more states move to digital IDs

**SALT LAKE CITY (AP)**—The card that millions of people use to prove their identity to everyone from police officers to liquor store owners may soon be a thing of the past as a growing number of states develop digital driver’s licenses.

With the advent of digital wallets and boarding passes, people are relying more on their phones to prove their identity. At least five states have implemented a mobile driver’s license program. Three others—Utah, Iowa and Florida—intend to launch programs by next year, with more expected to follow suit.

Mobile licenses will give people more privacy by allowing them to decide what personal information they share, state officials say. The licenses offer privacy control options that allow people to verify their age when purchasing alcohol or renting a car, while hiding other personal information like their address.

Having a mobile driver’s license will allow people to update their license information remotely without having to go to a state’s Department of Motor Vehicles or waiting for a new card in the mail, said Lee Howell, state relations manager at the American Automobile Association.

While most states with these programs recommend that users still carry their physical driver’s license as a backup, some industry experts estimate that the coronavirus pandemic has sped up the widespread adoption of contactless identification methods by at least a decade.

“Most people want some kind of a hard token for their identity, but I don’t know how long that will last,” said Pam Dixon, executive director of the World Privacy Forum. “I would imagine that at some point, maybe in a generation, maybe less, that people will accept a fully digital system.”

In most states, people’s data will be stored on their phone and with the DMV. People will only be able to access a mobile ID app with a passcode or using a smartphone’s fingerprint or facial recognition scan.

Industry leaders say safeguards will prevent anyone’s information from being stolen, but some critics argue that having so much personal data on a phone is too risky.

“When you have a physical thing in your hand, no one can hack that unless you lose it,” said Shelia Dunn Joneleit, a spokesperson for the National Motorists Association.

Joneleit noted that the new systems aren’t accessible to

all Americans because not everyone can afford a smartphone. She said that could eventually produce equity issues because some states require residents to show their driver’s license to vote.

She also said she doesn’t believe drivers should be handing their phones over to police, potentially violating people’s Fourth Amendment rights against unreasonable searches and seizures.

State officials and industry leaders say that moving away from physical IDs that could potentially be fraudulent to cryptographic verification will make it easier to confirm someone’s identity.

“The majority of the way that people verify your identity in person today is by visual inspection of the identity document,” said Matt Thompson, senior vice president of IDEMIA, a technology company working on several states’ mobile ID apps. “As we move to cryptographic verification, it’s a lot easier to verify the authenticity of a document through digital means.”

IDEMIA has launched mobile ID apps in three states this year and expects to launch an additional seven before 2021 ends, said Angie Hamblen, the company’s senior marketing manager.

## Major US pipeline halts operations after ransomware attack

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The operator of a major pipeline system that transports fuel across the East Coast said Saturday it had been victimized by a ransomware attack and had halted all pipeline operations to deal with the threat. The attack is unlikely to affect gasoline supply and prices unless it leads to a prolonged shutdown of the pipeline, experts said.

Colonial Pipeline did not say what was demanded or who made the demand. Ransomware attacks are typically carried out by criminal hackers who scramble data, paralyzing victim networks, and demand a large payment to decrypt it.

The attack on the company, which says it delivers roughly 45% of fuel consumed on the East Coast, underscores again the vulnerabilities of critical infrastructure to damaging cyberattacks that threaten to impede operations. It presents a new challenge for an administration still dealing with its response to major hacks from months ago, including a massive breach of government agencies and corporations for which the U.S. sanctioned Russia last month.

In this case, Colonial Pipe-

line said the ransomware attack Friday affected some of its information technology systems and that the company moved “proactively” to take certain systems offline, halting pipeline operations. In an earlier statement, it said it was “taking steps to understand and resolve this issue” with an eye toward returning to normal operations.

The Alpharetta, Georgia-based company transports gasoline, diesel, jet fuel and home heating oil from refineries located on the Gulf Coast through pipelines running from Texas to New Jersey. Its pipeline system spans more than 5,500 miles, transporting more than 100 million gallon a day.

The White House said President Joe Biden was briefed Saturday morning and the federal government was working with the company to assess the implications of the attack, restore operations and avoid disruptions to the supply. The government is planning for various scenarios and working with state and local authorities on measures to mitigate any potential supply issues.

The private cybersecurity firm FireEye said it’s been hired to manage the incident

response investigation.

Oil analyst Andy Lipow said the impact of the attack on fuel supplies and prices depends on how long the pipeline is down. An outage of one day or two would be minimal, he said, but an outage of five or six days could cause shortages and price hikes, particularly in an area stretching from central Alabama to the Washington, D.C., region.

Lipow said a key concern about a lengthy delay would be the supply of jet fuel needed to keep major airports operating, like those in Atlanta and Charlotte, North Carolina.

A leading expert in industrial control systems, Dragos CEO Robert Lee, said systems such as those that directly manage the pipeline’s operation have been increasingly connected to computer networks in the past decade.

But critical infrastructure companies in the energy and electricity industries also tend to have invested more in cybersecurity than other sectors. If Colonial’s shutdown was mostly precautionary—and it detected the ransomware attack early and was well-prepared—the impact may not be great, Lee said.



# Nation

## As US reopens, campuses tighten restrictions for virus

BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP)—

About a year into mask mandates, nasal swabs and remote classes, the atmosphere turned tense at the University of Vermont as the school cracked down on rules for social distancing and face coverings amid a spike in student COVID-19 cases.

Students were handed hundreds of citations for violations like standing in another student's doorway or walking maskless to a hallway restroom, igniting a student-led petition that blasted "strict and inhumane living conditions."

"You start to feel suffocated like I'm afraid to leave my room," freshman Patrick Welsh said in an interview on campus.

Even as restrictions relax across much of the United States, colleges and universities have taken new steps to police campus life as the virus spreads through students who are among the last adults to get access to vaccines. Administrators say they've needed to act urgently to avoid risking an early end to the semester or sending infected students home and spreading COVID-19.

In recent weeks, the University of Michigan punished hundreds of students for missing mandatory virus testing by deactivating their access cards to nonresidential buildings, and Cornell University announced that students would lose access to campus Wi-Fi, course materials and facilities for missing virus tests. The University of Chicago locked down residence halls for seven



days and shifted classes online after finding more than 50 cases in a matter of days.

The measures come as administrators assess whether in-person commencement ceremonies are feasible, how to get students vaccinated and whether to make the shots a requirement. The onset of warm weather and eased restrictions outside campus gates pose additional challenges.

After recording 200 cases in the first two weeks of April, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University eliminated in-person dining and banned visitors from campus housing. While the state's

governor has lifted an outdoor mask mandate and doubled mass gathering limits to allow 100 people indoors and 200 people outdoors, the university has worked with law enforcement to try to shut down off-campus events billed as "Aggie-Fest" celebrations that target students, said Todd Simmons, associate vice chancellor for university relations.

"What we're trying to prevail on students is two things. First, let's not get commencement canceled with some sort of last-minute major surge in COVID infections, and secondly do not take a chance on taking a COVID infection

home," Simmons said.

The historically Black university also has been pushing students to get vaccinated on campus, he said, bringing in speakers to address vaccine hesitancy.

At the University of Vermont, just under 100 students tested positive for the virus during the fall semester. But the numbers surged in the spring, with more than 680 students infected so far this semester. Gary Derr, vice president for operations and public safety, said the fall semester got off to a smoother start because it was warm enough for students to socialize outside.

"We came back in the spring

and we were stuck indoors," he said. Like many campuses, there was no spring break to look forward to; the university

In this April 8, 2021, file photo, students exit the KSU Ice Arena after getting their Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccination at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio.

didn't want students bringing the virus back with them.

UVM students agree to a pledge that they will abide by school rules for preventing the spread of the coronavirus and violations can lead to fines, probation or suspension for repeated offenses. This spring, six students have been suspended and 23, some of whom had faced full suspension, are banished from campus, allowed only to join classes remotely, after the school agreed to review the cases.

As tulips and daffodils bloom on campus, signs tell students to keep up the practices like social distancing and mask wearing. At the COVID-19 testing center, where students are tested twice a week, banners say, "IT'S UP TO US" and "THANKS FOR DOING YOUR PART."

## Police: 3 hurt in Florida mall shooting as shoppers scatter

MIAMI (AP)—A shooting at a South Florida shopping mall that was sparked by a fight between two groups of people sent panicked shoppers fleeing and left three persons injured Saturday afternoon, police and witnesses said.

Live aerial television news footage showed people scattering outside the Aventura Mall after the initial reports of gunfire. Law enforcement vehicles could be seen converging at the complex and blocking roads.

Aventura Police said two groups of people had begun fighting before it escalated to gunfire.

One individual in one of the groups produced a gun, and an individual in the other group also drew a gun and fired that weapon, said an Aventura police spokesman, Michael Bentolila, in briefing reporters on live television.

Police said the three wounded were taken to hospitals but their injuries were not life-threatening.

Aventura Police later tweeted that authorities had "several suspects" in custody who were being questioned by detectives. Police had no immediate report on what touched off the incident and did not immediately release the identities of those in cus-

tody or injured.

After the shooting, mall patrons and employees were led out of the shopping complex and officials announced the mall would not reopen until Sunday.

Oscar Alvarado, a worker at the mall, said the complex was bustling with a strong Mother's Day weekend crowd when the chaos erupted. He said it wasn't the first shooting at the mall that he's experienced.

"This time I do have to say I could hear the screams from so far away. I could clearly hear the people were really, really worried and concerned," he said. "They were yelling 'shooter, shooter.'"

Alvarado recorded video of two police officers moving down the mall walkway after the shooting with their guns drawn. And he described waiting for about an hour with coworkers before they could evacuate.

"There was a lot of commotion outside, a lot of people crying and stressed," he said of the scene outdoors.

Videos shared on social media community forums show officers who appeared to be taking a man in custody outside the mall. Other footage showed shoppers running out of stores or seeking cover.

## String of satellites baffles residents, bugs astronomers

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A string of lights that lobbed across the night sky in parts of the U.S. on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday had some people wondering if a fleet of UFOs was coming, but it had others—mostly amateur stargazers and professional astronomers—lamenting the industrialization of space.

The train of lights was actually a series of relatively low-flying satellites launched by Elon Musk's SpaceX as part of its Starlink internet service earlier this week. Callers swamped TV stations from Texas to Wisconsin reporting the lights and musing about UFOs.

An email to a spokesman for SpaceX was not returned Saturday, but astronomy experts said the number of lights in quick succession and their distance from Earth made them easily identifiable as Starlink satellites for those

who are used to seeing them.

"The way you can tell they are Starlink satellites is they are like a string of pearls, these lights travelling in the same basic orbit, one right after the other," said Dr. Richard Fienberg, press officer for the American Astronomical Society.

Fienberg said the satellites that are being launched in large groups called constellations string together when they orbit, especially right after launching. The strings get smaller as time goes on.

This month, SpaceX has already launched dozens of satellites. It is all part of a plan to bridge the digital divide and bring internet access to underserved areas of the world, with SpaceX tentatively scheduled to launch another 120 satellites later in the month. Overall, the company has sent about 1,500 satellites into orbit and has asked for permission

to launch thousands more.

But prior to recent years, there were maybe a few hundred satellites total orbiting Earth, mostly visible as individual lights moving across the sky, Fienberg said. The other handful of companies that are planning to or have launched the satellite constellations have not launched recently and largely pushed them into orbit at a farther distance from Earth, he said.

Fienberg's group as well as others that represent both professional and amateur stargazers don't love the proliferation of satellites that can obscure scientific data and ruin a clear night of watching the universe. The International Astronomical Union issued a statement in July 2019 noting concern about the multiple satellite launches.

"The organisation, in general, embraces the principle of a dark and radio-quiet sky

as not only essential to advancing our understanding of the Universe of which we are a part, but also as a resource for all humanity and for the protection of nocturnal wildlife," the union's representatives wrote. They noted that light reflection can interfere with astronomical research, but the radio-waves can also cause problems for specialized research equipment such as those that captured the first images of a black hole.

Fienberg said there is no real regulation of light pollution from satellites, but SpaceX has voluntarily worked to mitigate that by creating visors that dampen the satellites' reflection of sunlight. They've made significant progress in just two years, he said, but many hope that the satellites will some day be at such a low magnitude that they will not be visible to the naked eye even at dusk or dawn.



# Asia

## AS INDIA SURGES

# Bangladesh lacks jabs, faces COVID variants

**DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)**—India's surge in coronavirus cases is having a dangerous effect on neighboring Bangladesh, with health experts warning of imminent vaccine shortages just as the country should be stepping up jabs and as more contagious virus variants are beginning to be detected.

On Saturday, health authorities said that for the first time, a coronavirus variant originally identified in India was found in Bangladesh, without providing further details. For weeks, South African variants have dominated the samples sequenced in Bangladesh. There are concerns that these versions spread more easily and that first-generation vaccines could be less effective against them.

Experts say that declining infections in Bangladesh over the last two weeks compared to March and early April—for reasons that aren't fully understood—provided the perfect opportunity for the nation to scale up vaccinations.

"This is the time to vaccinate, keep infections low

and make sure that new variants don't emerge here," said Senjuti Saha, a scientist at the Child Health Research Foundation in Bangladesh, who is also sequencing the virus.

However, India has banned the export of vaccines as it grapples with the crisis at home. The Serum Institute of India was supposed to supply 30 million doses—5 million a month—to Bangladesh by June. But the institute has only supplied 7 million doses and has suspended further shipments since February.

"It's caused a real problem," said Dr. A.S.M. Alamgir, a scientist with the government's Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research.

Fearing shortages, the government late last month stopped allowing people to register for a first vaccine dose, and the administration of second doses is also being hampered.

The densely populated country of 160 million is desperately seeking new avenues for vaccines other than India, and is attempting to produce Russian and

Chinese vaccines at home by bringing technology from both countries. Bangladesh is expecting 500,000 doses of Chinese vaccines next week as a gift from Beijing, and has also sought help from the United States.

Dr. Mustafizur Rahman, a scientist of the Dhaka-based International Center for Diarrheal Disease Research, said threats from new variants remained a big concern, especially when vaccines are not available.

Although the border with India is closed to people, goods continue to cross. Virus sequencing in Bangladesh, like other countries including the U.S., has been scant. This means there could easily be blind spots.

"We can't rule out that the Indian variant would not make a new wave in Bangladesh. We have a porous border with India," Alamgir said.

Since March of last year, when the first COVID-19 case was detected in Bangladesh, the country has reported 770,842 confirmed cases and 11,833 deaths.

Prosecutor General Hussain Shameem told reporters that investigators still don't know which extremist group was behind Thursday's attack, which also wounded two of Nasheed's bodyguards and two apparent bystanders, including a British citizen. Police announced Saturday that two men were arrested in connection with the attack, and released a photo of a person they said is the main fugitive suspect, seeking public assistance in identifying him. No group has claimed responsibility.

## PH troops drive away armed rebels from public market

**COTABATO, Philippines (AP)**—Dozens of Muslim militants occupied a public market overnight in the southern Philippines before fleeing after a tense standoff with government forces, officials said Saturday. The Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters did not take any hostage or put up resistance when army troops and police took positions at dawn Saturday near the public market in the farming town of Datu Paglas, said military spokesman Lt. Col. John Paul Baldomar. "They went into the market and stole food but got stuck inside when they saw that our forces have taken positions to ensure other buildings could not be threatened," he told reporters. There were no immediate reports of injuries or deaths. The rebel group broke off from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the largest Muslim rebel group in the south, after it entered into peace talks and later signed a Muslim autonomy deal with the government in 2014. The breakaway guerrillas have continued sporadic attacks and bombings, with some aligning themselves with the Islamic State group.

# World

## SOUTH AFRICA'S ROYAL SCANDAL:

# New Zulu king's claim disputed

**CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP)**—A new Zulu king was named in South Africa amid scenes of chaos after members of the royal family questioned Prince Misuzulu Zulu's claim to the title following his father's death, and bodyguards suddenly whisked him away from the public announcement at a palace.

The controversy over the next king, a largely ceremonial role but one with great significance for South Africa and its 12 million Zulu people, has arisen after the death in March of King Goodwill Zwelithini, who had reigned since 1968.

Zwelithini apparently named one of his six wives, Queen Mantfombi Shiyiwe Dlamini Zulu, as the "regent of the Zulu kingdom" in his will, but she died after holding the title for only a month, throwing the royal succession into turmoil.

The commotion broke out Friday night at the reading of Queen Mantfombi's will and hours after a memorial service for her. The queen's will named 46-year-old Prince Misuzulu, her eldest son with King Zwelithini, as the heir and next king.

But another prince objected and interrupted the announcement at the KwaKhangelamankengane Royal Palace in South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal province. Two prin-



Prince Misuzulu Zulu, centre, flanked by fellow warriors in traditional dress at the KwaKhangelamankengane Royal Palace, during a ceremony, in Nongoma, Friday May 7, 2021.

cesses also have questioned whether the late king's will gave Queen Mantfombi the right to nominate a successor upon her death.

King Zwelithini reportedly had 28 children with his different wives, and Queen Mantfombi was not his first wife. A dispute over succession had been brewing since the late king's death, fascinating many South Africans with their very own royal scandal.

Significant to the dispute is the fate of the king's assets and the vast amounts of land traditionally owned by the Zulu people and now held in a trust. Estimates say the trust controls nearly 30% of the land in KwaZulu-Natal province, or around 28,000 square kilometers (10,810 square miles). The king is the sole trustee.

Earlier on Friday, Prince

Misuzulu, who wore a traditional leopard-skin headband reserved for royalty and chiefs, called for unity among the Zulu royals at his mother's memorial service.

"We have no doubt we will unite as a family," he said in a message read out by his younger sister, Princess Ntandoyesizwe Zulu. "Let us emulate the king by being peaceful."

The Zulu king has no political or even constitutional position, but his traditional authority is recognized in KwaZulu-Natal, where he is said to "reign but not rule." More than that, the king holds an important role in bridging the gap between traditional customs and modern democracy in South Africa, where Zulus are the largest ethnic group among the country's 60 million people.

# Beefed-up Israel police clash with Palestinians in Jerusalem

**JERUSALEM (AP)**—Israeli police on Saturday clashed with Palestinian protesters outside Jerusalem's Old City during the holiest night of Ramadan in a show of force that threatened to deepen the holy city's worst religious unrest in several years. Earlier, police blocked busloads of pilgrims headed to Jerusalem for prayer at Islam's third holiest site.

Police defended their actions as security moves, but these were seen as provocations by Muslims who accuse Israel of threatening their freedom of worship. Competing claims to east Jerusalem, home to major shrines of Judaism, Islam and Christianity, lie at the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and have triggered serious violence in the past.

The unrest came a day after violence in which Palestinian medics said more than 200 Palestinians were wounded in clashes at the Al-Aqsa

mosque compound and elsewhere in Jerusalem. Friday's violence drew condemnations from Israel's Arab allies and calls for calm from the United States and Europe and the United Nations. The Arab League scheduled an emergency meeting on Monday.

Early Sunday, the Israeli military said Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip fired a rocket at the country's south that fell in an open area. In response, aircraft struck a military post for Hamas, the militant group ruling the territory. There were no reports of casualties in either attack.

Police chief Koby Shabtai said he had deployed more police in Jerusalem following Friday night's clashes, which left 18 police officers wounded. After weeks of nightly violence, Israelis and Palestinians were bracing for more conflict in the coming days.

"The right to demonstrate will be respected but public disturbances will be met

with force and zero tolerance. I call on everyone to act responsibly and with restraint," Shabtai said.

Saturday night was "Laylat al-Qadr" or the "Night of Destiny," the most sacred in the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Islamic authorities estimated 90,000 people gathered for nighttime prayers at Al-Aqsa, the third-holiest site in Islam.

A large crowd of protesters chanted "God is great" outside the Old City's Damascus Gate, and some pelted police with rocks and water bottles. Police patrols fired stun grenades as they moved through the area, and a police truck periodically fired a water cannon.

Palestinian medics said 64 Palestinians were wounded, mostly by rubber bullets, stun grenades or beatings, among them a woman whose face was bloodied. Eleven people were hospitalized, medics said.

## ASIAN BRIEFS

### Taiwan rations water, drills extra wells amid record drought

**TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)**—Some households in Taiwan are going without running water two days a week after a months-long drought dried up the island's reservoirs and a popular tourist lake. Authorities are drilling extra wells and using military planes to dump cloud-seeding chemicals in hopes of triggering rain. The government has allocated money to extract drinkable water from the sea. Farmers who need to flood paddies to raise rice, lotus root and other thirsty crops have been hit hard. "The lotus flowers and seeds I planted don't produce well," said Chen Chiu-lang, a farmer in the southern city of Tainan, standing in a dry paddy field. Rainfall in the seven months through February was less than half the historic average after no typhoons hit Taiwan in 2020 for the first time in 56 years, according to the government.

### Maldives: Islamic extremists behind attack on ex-president

**MALE, Maldives (AP)**—A top official in the Maldives said Saturday that Islamic extremists were responsible for an explosion that critically wounded former President Mohamed Nasheed earlier this week, as police said they arrested two of four suspects. Hospital officials said Saturday that Nasheed, 53, was conscious and no longer needed breathing support, but remains in an intensive care unit after initial life-saving surgeries to his head, chest, abdomen and limbs. They told reporters that shrapnel from the blast damaged his intestines and liver, and that a piece of shrapnel broke his rib and had been a centimeter (0.4 inches) from his heart.



# Health & Wellness

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## COOLING STRESS TIPS

# The clock is a great stress management tool

By JUDI LIGHT HOPSON  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**H**ave you ever wanted to smash an alarm clock? You know how this goes. Last night, you got into bed at midnight. Before you knew it, your clock buzzed this morning at 5 a.m.

Or, have you ever run a stop sign because you were going to be late for work? Then, you got pulled over by a cop. Your mistake was silencing your alarm clock, instead of getting out of bed.

Time management involves a lot of tips and tricks. But measuring time, by referring to a clock or watch, can actually fix a lot of stress in the long run.

The clock literally holds us accountable. It ensures we reach goals, steer clear of failure, and keep our lives on track. It also helps us say no to people wanting to infringe upon our time.

"Plenty of times, I will tell people I have to call my mother," says a business owner we'll call Peggy. "When I glance at my watch, I see they've already bent my ear for 20 minutes. So I let them know I've got to move on."

By using your clock to support your goals, it can become your best friend.

These insights can help you get started:

- Realize the power of 30 seconds. For instance, if your house is piled with clutter, think about this: Failing to hang up a coat, neaten a desk or keep a room tidy happens when we skip the quick chores. By playing a game to see how often you can use 30 seconds constructively will add up to a neater environment.

- Exercise in 15-minute time frames. Most of us can find 15 min-



The clock literally holds us accountable.

utes twice each day to ride a stationary bike, jog in place or take a quick walk.

- Go to bed and get up at specific times. This creates a rhythm to your life. Going to bed at 10:30 p.m. and getting up at 6:30 a.m. is one choice. Conforming to the clock will create structure for your entire life. Ignoring the clock by just a few minutes can throw off your schedule continually.

"I've learned to utilize time in 15-minute increments," says a mother of four we'll call Shannon. "If I need to take control of anything, I know that I can gain power by looking at ways to grab time."

Shannon spends three separate 15-minute time slots each day to straighten her house. Before work,

before dinner and before bed, she tackles 15 minutes of cleaning and clutter. This 45 minutes every day has helped her make progress.

Every goal in life will likely stand the best chance of being realized by pairing it up with the clock.

"When I was a stay-at-home mom with my first two kids, I wasted a lot of time," says a ballet instructor we'll call Shelley. "When I look back, I wish I'd forced myself to take a college course or learned a new language. I ignored any type of schedule."

Recouping lost time is not impossible, but it gets harder as we age. Failing to exercise until you're 45 or failing to learn to cook nutritious meals until you're 60 can affect your quality of life.

When shopping, cooking, exercising, working on finances and reading, for example, it pays to fit these tasks into certain time frames. Both the calendar and the clock should support your goals.

"Planning my study time, cleaning house and cooking is helping me finish college," says a single mom who is close to getting her degree. "Instead of cursing the clock, I try to figure out how to treat every hour as a golden gift."

*Judi Light Hopson is the Executive Director of the stress management website USA Wellness Café at [usawellnesscafe.com](http://usawellnesscafe.com). Emma Hopson is an author and a nurse educator. Ted Hagen is a family psychologist.)*

## Why you should get the first COVID-19 vaccine offered to you

Vaccination is an important step in the fight against the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Being vaccinated for COVID-19 protects you from becoming infected and possibly infecting those around you.

COVID-19 vaccines that have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration are being distributed by local states and communities, and they are free. If you are eligible to be vaccinated for COVID-19, you are encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

"It is so important to get this vaccine when it's offered to you," says Dr. Melanie Swift, co-chair of the Mayo Clinic COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation and Distribution Work

Group. "Even if you're healthy, even if you might not be at risk for complications from COVID-19 yourself."

Dr. Swift says being vaccinated for COVID-19 offers protection for you and others.

"Our society really needs everyone to be vaccinated so that we can stop transmission. And that means the virus stops replicating. It stops mutating and making these variants that keep coming up, and we can have safe communities and start going back to normal life. These vaccines are our quickest and safest way to get immunity so we can go back to normal life and end the pandemic."

If you are unsure about your eli-

gibility or you want to wait for others to be vaccinated, Dr. Swift offers some thoughts.

"If you're offered vaccine, you're eligible. Get the vaccine. It is really not a personal ethics test. If you're offered vaccine, the right answer is: 'Yes, thank you. I'll take the vaccine.' People should not feel guilty about getting vaccinated."

Here's what you can do to slow the spread of COVID-19:

- Get vaccinated for COVID-19 when you're invited to do so.

- Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth to protect yourself and others.

- Stay 6 feet apart from others who don't live with you.

- Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water aren't available.

Contact your state health department for more information on its plan for COVID-19 vaccination. (*Mayo Clinic News Network/TNS*)

*Information in this post was accurate at the time of its posting. Due to the fluid nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, scientific understanding, along with guidelines and recommendations, may have changed since the original publication date. For more information and all your COVID-19 coverage, go to the Mayo Clinic News Network and [mayoclinic.org](http://mayoclinic.org).*

## Reports shows Americans gained weight during pandemic

By RACHEL HUTTON  
STAR TRIBUNE

With so many people spending their days kitchen-adjacent, readily indulging in fat- and carb-laden comfort foods, the "quarantine 15" was expected early in the pandemic.

But a survey by the American Psychological Association showed that some people gained almost double that, sparking concern over the long-term health impact of these stressful events.

The group's February survey of 3,000 American adults found many are drinking more and sleeping less. A full 61% said they experienced undesired weight changes during the pandemic. Among those surveyed who said they gained more weight than they intended (42% of those who changed weight), the average reported increase was 29 pounds (the median gain was 15 pounds).

Among the 3,000 surveyed, millennials and essential workers reported the largest increases, 41 and 38 pounds. They were followed by men (37 pounds), parents (36 pounds), and Black adults (35).

Professor Dianne Neumark-Sztainer, who heads the University of Minnesota's Division of Epidemiology and Community Health, said research she's leading has found that being exposed to weight stigma (for example, being teased about one's weight by family and friends) predicts weight gain over time.

"During the global pandemic, there has been an increased focus on obesity and its intersection with COVID-19, which may, inadvertently, lead to increased weight stigma and weight gain," she wrote. "Furthermore, the increased isolation and stress may contribute to weight gain over time."



A survey by the American Psychological Association showed that some people gained significant amount of weight, sparking concern over the long-term health impact of these stressful events.



# Life & Style

## Angelina Jolie lets Taylor Sheridan drag her through hell

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Taylor Sheridan, initially brought on to rewrite the mountain thriller “Those Who Wish Me Dead,” gradually got more invested in the movie. When another filmmaker dropped out, he called the studio with an offer.

“I said if I can get Angie to do this with me, I’ll direct it for you,” Sheridan says. “They said, ‘Great. You’ll never get Angie.’”

The skepticism on the part of Warner Bros. executives was warranted. Angelina Jolie, whose priorities have centered on filmmaking, international work and family, hasn’t starred in a live-action film in six years. Over the last decade, her only leading performances have been two “Maleficent” movies and “By the Sea,” which she directed and starred in alongside then-husband Brad Pitt.

But Sheridan’s timing was right. Jolie, going through a painful and protracted divorce, was more interested in a quicker, simpler role on set. And the part of a Montanan smoke jumper haunted by trauma and guilt, was potentially cathartic.



“We all have times in our lives where we are broken. And we grieve and we’re not sure we have anything left in us,” Jolie said in an interview by Zoom from Los Angeles. “I identified more with a part of her that didn’t feel she could do a lot, and hadn’t done this in a long time. To be in this situation and have a director that is both sensitive and aware of the human experience, to go there and to feel it, but also to push you to find your strength and move forward.”

“It was really what I needed at that time,” says Jolie.

“Those Who Wish Me Dead,” which will on May 14 open in theaters and on HBO Max, is an anomaly for other reasons, too. It’s a startled genre film not based on well-known intellectual property made by a major studio. (The film is based on Michael Koryta’s 2014 book.) Like Sheridan’s previous films — “To Hell or High Water,” “Sicario” (both of which he wrote) and “Wind River”

EMERSON MILLER/WARNER BROS. ENTERTAINMENT VIA AP  
This image released by Warner Bros. Entertainment shows Angelina Jolie in a scene from “Those Who Wish Me Dead.”

(which Sheridan wrote and directed), it’s a tale of blood and justice across a vast and violent American landscape.

“To sound like a millennial, it’s very on-brand for me,” says Sheridan, chuckling. “But what’s unique is we made this at a studio. This is a studio film and they trusted us to go do this. We made it like a ’70s movie. They promoted it like a ’70s movie. The biggest 21st century element is the fact that you’ll be able to stream it or go to the theater.”

In “Those Who Wish Me Dead,” Jolie’s Hannah Faber encounters a 12-year-old boy (Finn Little) in the wilderness who’s fleeing two assassins. It was shot in New Mexico in May and June 2019—a month after Jolie and Pitt were ruled legally single by a court. (A custody battle over their six children is ongoing.)

Snow was still falling in the mountains. Aside from the natural environs, Sheridan

erected a faux forest and set it aflame. Jolie, an action star in “Mr. & Mrs. Smith,” “Salt” and “Lara Croft: Tomb Raider,” performed many of her stunts. Sheridan, accustomed to making films close to the land, had little luxury to offer beyond space heaters in tents and lavish, overbudget craft services. He cheerfully recalls

the experience as miserable.

“You know, the character sort of drags Angie through emotional hell, and then I drug her through physical hell,” Sheridan says from a remote lakeside quarantine in Ontario. “That’s how we made the movie.”

“And I loved every minute of it,” Jolie says, smiling.

## Elon Musk shows humility and hubris as ‘SNL’ host

**By ANDREW DALTON**  
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Elon Musk showed a combination of humility and hubris as he opened his highly anticipated hosting gig on “Saturday Night Live.”

The 49-year-old Tesla CEO, SpaceX founder and one of the world’s richest men opened his monologue by mocking his monotonal speaking style, saying no one can tell when he’s joking.

“It’s great to be hosting ‘Saturday Night Live,’ and I really mean it,” said Musk standing on the stage in a black suit with a black T-shirt. “Sometimes after I say something, I have to say that I mean it.”

He added, in explanation, that he is the first person with Asperger’s syndrome to host the show. “Or at least the first person to admit it,” he said.

It may have been the first time Musk has publicly said he has the mild form of autism.

Musk also joked about his Twitter account, which has more than 50 million followers, and the tweets that led some critics to object to his being invited to host the show.

“Look, I know I sometimes

say or post strange things, but that’s just how my brain works,” he said.

Then Musk added a boast that got his biggest laugh of the night, and an applause break from the studio audience.

“To anyone who’s been offended, I just want to say I re-invented electric cars, and I’m sending people to Mars in a rocket ship,” Musk said. “Did you think I was also going to be a chill, normal dude?”

Musk didn’t appear in the show’s unconventional and heart-warming cold open, in which cast members and their moms did brief bits for Mother’s Day as musical guest Miley Cyrus sang her godmother Dolly Parton’s inspirational “Light of a Clear Blue Morning.”

But Musk brought his own mother, model Maye Musk, on stage to talk about what he was like when he was 12.

The casting choice brought criticism from those who felt the show was celebrating a man for his exorbitant wealth in a time of great inequality and a man who spread misinformation to his huge Twitter following as he downplayed the severity of the coronavirus pandemic.

## Vax Live concert raises \$302 million, exceeds vaccine goal

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—The Global Citizen fundraising concert advocating the importance of vaccine equity has pulled in \$302 million, exceeding the goal for the organization’s campaign.

Global Citizen announced Saturday that the funds raised helped procure more than 26 million doses at the “Vax Live: The Concert to Reunite the World.” The organization said

money was garnered through several philanthropic and corporate commitments.

President Joe Biden, Prince Harry and Jennifer Lopez were among the big names who took part in the event, which was recorded May 2 and aired Saturday. ABC, ABC News Live, CBS, YouTube and iHeartMedia radio stations will broadcast the concert staged at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California.

um in Inglewood, California.

Selena Gomez hosted the show, which was attended by several thousand fully-vaccinated concertgoers who cheered on performances by Eddie Vedder, Foo Fighters, J Balvin, H.E.R. and Lopez, who enjoyed a duet with her mom.

Ben Affleck, Chrissy Teigen, Jimmy Kimmel, Sean Penn and David Letterman served as special guest speakers.

Vax Live was one of the largest concert gatherings in Southern California since the coronavirus pandemic roiled the world more than a year ago.

Organizers called the event the country’s first large-scale music event for a COVID-19-compliant audience. Media and production staff needed to show a negative COVID-19 test before entering the stadium.

## Family and friends have doubts about widower’s younger woman

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a widower. I lost my wonderful wife of 35 years to heart disease eight years ago. I have had no relationships with women since then.

Recently, I had the pleasure of meeting a very nice woman, “Yvonne.” She’s 11 years younger and has never been married. We see each other socially and enjoy each other’s company. We are both retired, have our own money and neither of us is interested in marriage.

My son and daughter, both married with children, are split in their opinions about this. My son is happy for me, but my daughter thinks Yvonne is too young for me and wonders why she never married. Some of my friends actually side with my daughter.

At our ages, I don’t think an 11-year difference is a big deal. Why Yvonne stayed single is none of anyone’s business. Since her mother’s death, my daughter has been protective of me. Am I wrong for enjoying the company of this woman after so many years alone?

LONELY WIDOWER IN ARIZONA

**DEAR WIDOWER:** No, you are not wrong. If you and Yvonne enjoy each other, you are both unencumbered and entitled to it. Eleven years is not too great an age difference. Your daughter seems to be more possessive than protective.

**Seeing you with a woman other than her late mother—regardless of age—may be what’s really bothering her.**

**If you want to allow your friends to run your life, I can’t stop you. But I see no reason why you should allow them to dampen your enjoyment if all they can find wrong with Yvonne is her age. (Could any of these “friends” be jealous or closely tied to your late wife?)**

**DEAR ABBY:** I am the youngest of three. My brother is the eldest. Our sister died of cancer 20 years ago.

It breaks my heart that he and his wife can’t seem to decide whether they like me or not. Sometimes they are warm and inviting, but for most of my life they’ve been cold, critical and distant. They create imaginary problems, blame me for them and then keep me on the outs until they decide to forgive and forget. I’ve spent many hours crying about this.

I have finally reached the point where I refuse to be hurt any longer and have chosen not to engage with them anymore. It has been nearly a year since we’ve had contact. My husband sympathizes with me and recognizes their behavior as odd and hurtful. However, he believes I should reach out once more because my brother is my only living sibling. I’m fearful that if I do, I’ll be hurt once again. Your advice is greatly needed.

UNDECIDED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

## DEAR ABBY

**By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*



**DEAR UNDECIDED:** Your husband is a kind and forgiving man who has not experienced the pain your brother and his wife have subjected you to with their mind games. Your brother may be your only living sibling, but it is an accident of birth. He is incapable of the kind of relationship you would like to have had with him. Having been hurt repeatedly, you are right to be fearful. You will shed fewer tears if you continue keeping your distance.

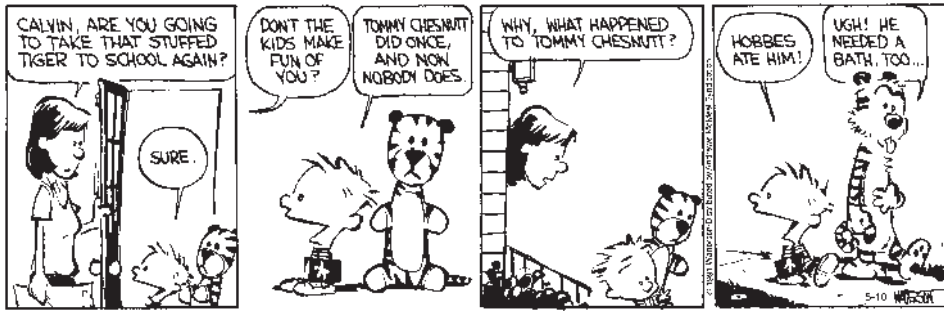
*For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order “How to Have a Lovely Wedding.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



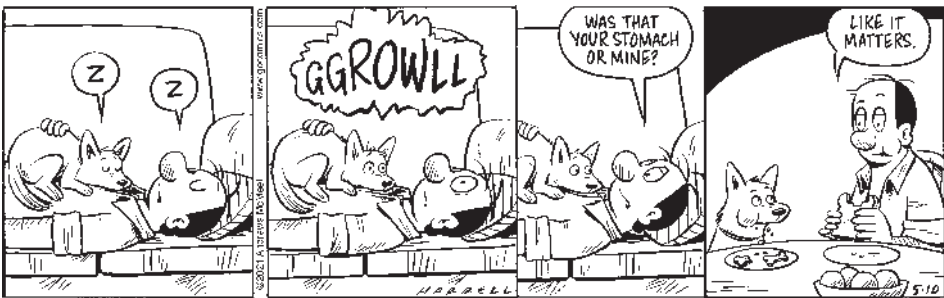
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Recipe abbr.  
4 Pen tip  
7 Gushing review  
11 Aussie hoppers  
13 Writer Tarbell  
14 Dutch cheese  
15 Oodles  
16 Flight stat  
17 Libretto  
18 Salk's conquest  
20 Beige  
22 Upper limit  
24 Author Lee  
28 Marsh rodent  
32 Hose woes  
33 "The Lord — shepherd ..."  
34 Aries  
36 Jog  
37 Cat calls?  
39 Martial art  
41 Decorative border  
43 Elmer, to Bugs  
44 Untalkative one

**DOWN**

46 Barely manage  
50 In a — (sad)  
53 Last letter in London  
55 Lamb alias  
56 Tom Joad, for one  
57 Jargon suffix  
58 Gas container  
59 Karate level  
60 Apply cream  
61 Mormon church, for short

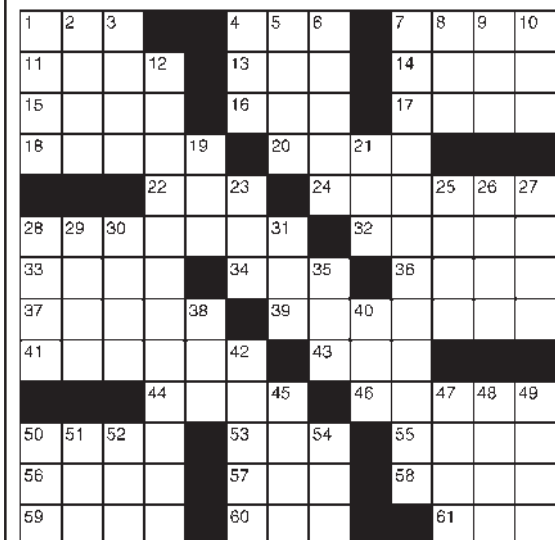
**1 Alone**  
**3 Combine**  
**4 Actress**  
**5 Between**  
**6 Quantity of**  
**7 Component of a round-trip fare**  
**8 Citric beverage**  
**9 Preventive shot, in slang**  
**10 911 responder**  
**12 Difficult situation**  
**19 Rowing tool**  
**21 Dorm VIPs**

**23 Standard**  
**25 Fraction**  
**26 Holly-wood clasher**  
**27 Alpha-betic sequence**  
**28 Charades player**  
**29 Second-hand**  
**30 Urban haze**  
**31 Agra's — Mahal**  
**35 Wet dirt**  
**38 NBC weekend show**  
**40 Average guy**  
**42 Peered**  
**45 Arizona city**  
**47 Israeli airline**  
**48 Predica-ment**  
**49 Talks nonstop**  
**50 Watch chain**  
**51 Luau instrument**  
**52 Goose egg**  
**54 Cotillion celeb**

**Solution time: 26 mins.**

T	S	M	E	G	R	R	C	A	B
N	A	A	C	P	I	C	E	E	L
N	O	M	D	E	S	A	M	P	L
P	I	E	C	E	S	A	L	A	S
N	O	R	S	A	L	S	T	O	N
O	L	A	F	D	E	L	H	I	
U	E	S	I	H	E	L	O	S	E
G	C	N	O	S	A	R	I		
L	I	L	A	C	A	Y	N	M	A
A	M	E	R	S	U	D	O	K	U
S	A	M	O	A	N	S	V	E	H
E	G	O	W	E	E	N	A	C	T
R	E	N	E	P	A	L	O	R	E

Last Friday's Answer 05/10



## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Mis-ty Franklin, 26; Kenan Thompson, 43; Bono, 61; Donovan, 75.

**Happy Birthday:** Focus, maintain stability and build a secure foundation for the future. Use insight and intelligence to help you make the best decisions. A steady stride will far exceed trying to cut corners. Personal and professional improvements take planning, strategy and dedication. Embrace change. Designate time to explore new beginnings. Commit and contribute, and you will make a difference. Your numbers are 4, 11, 19, 22, 27, 36, 40.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** You'll have some terrific ideas, but don't go overboard. Consider your resources and capabilities, and find a way to stay within budget. To do things properly, you are better off slowing down and doing them right the first time. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Put your knowledge, experience and dedication to the test. Take on a challenge, and your ability and value will shine through. Don't let rigidity hold you back. Be open to suggestions and willing to try something new. Moderation is encouraged. \*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Don't hide your feelings. It's important to let people know how you feel and what your expectations are. If you want change to happen, you may need to give someone a nudge. Keep your life simple and avoid excessive behavior. \*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Don't rely on anyone but yourself. An intellectual approach will be sufficient. Don't buy into a

grandiose plan someone presents to you. Moderation and strategic planning will get you where you want to go on time and within budget. \*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Handle obstacles professionally. Concentrate on what you can accomplish; use charm to win the support of people you can count on to help you reach your goal. Romance is favored, and plans that bring you closer to someone you love will be fulfilled. \*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** A change will be enlightening. Observe what's going on around you, and implement a plan to ensure you don't get left behind. You don't have to overspend to get ahead. Update your skills and knowledge to fit trends. \*\*\*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Dedication and persistence will help you get ahead. Refuse to let anxiety kick in and lead to an unnecessary argument with a friend, relative or colleague. Put your time and effort where it counts, and you will exceed your expectations. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Involvement in situations that need close monitoring will leave you at odds when you have to make a decision. Let your intuition be your guide, and you will find a path that will help you overcome an obstacle you encounter. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Pay more attention to your relationships. Nurturing will help you gain support, but overreacting will lead to separation. Indulgent behavior will lead to trouble. Find common ground, and you will avoid an argument. Choose to be

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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amicable, not argumentative. \*\*\*

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Strive to make changes that are within your budget. Consider what you can do to cut corners. An intelligent approach to situations that may affect your health or a personal relationship will help you avoid a setback. \*\*\*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Put your feelings aside and consider what others are going through before you make a move. It's always best to find out what's going on with those around you before you voice your opinions. Judge not, and you will avoid scrutiny. \*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Consider your financial options. Cold calls, connecting with people from your past, and exploring and expanding skills that ensure a better-paying job are encouraged. Discipline and hard work will make a difference to the way others treat you. \*\*\*\*

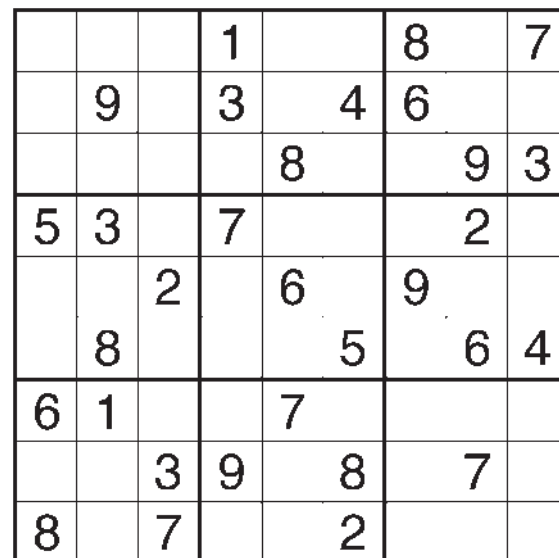
**Birthday Baby:** You are determined, curious and outgoing. You are flirtatious and playful.

☺: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☹: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☀: Aim high; start new projects. ☀☀☀: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

## SUDOKU

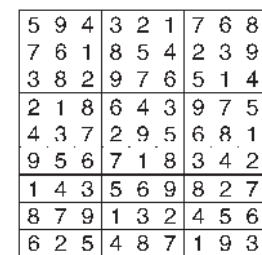
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★

5/10

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## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THINGS THAT CAN BE REPLACED

Solution: 7 letters



© 2021 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 5/10

Alternator, Bike, Blade, Boats, Breaker, Bulbs, Card, Carpet, Cartridge, Computer, Dock, Dryer, Drywall, Earrings, Exhaust, Fence, Filter, Flowers, Herbs, Hips, Keys, Knee, Laptop, License, Mattress, Passport, Plug, Retainer, Rotors, Shoes, Siding, Sink, Spice, Staircase, Starter, Tiles, Toilet, Toothbrush, Tracks, Weights, Window, Windshield, Zipper

Last Friday's Answer: Knockouts

To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.



# Westbrook basks in milestone moment of tying Big O's record



**INDIANAPOLIS** (AP)—Russell Westbrook became an instant hit with his ability to deliver triple-doubles.

Now, the 6-foot-3 point guard is on the verge of a home run — breaking Oscar Robertson's seemingly unbreakable career record.

He had 33 points, 19 rebounds and 15 assists Saturday night in a 133-132 overtime victory over Indiana to tie Robertson's mark of 181. And, fittingly, it came just a short drive away from the Lockefield Dust Bowl, where Robertson and his future Crispus Attucks High School teammates first honed their craft.

Westbrook gets his first crack to surpass Robertson on Monday night in Atlanta.

"I take a lot of pride in doing everything I can to impact winning," he said. "To be in a conversation with Oscar, I just want to thank him because he set the stage. The things he was able to do back in the day has allowed me to do the things that I do today. So I'm appreciative of that, and I'm appreciative of his support as well."

But the two men now linked in the record books took dramatically different paths to the top.

Robertson was an Indianapolis high school star, a three-time All-American at the University of Cincinnati and an Olympic gold medalist before playing for the Cincinnati Royals and Milwaukee Bucks.

In just his second pro season, Robertson became the first player to average a triple-double — a feat only matched by Westbrook a half-century later — and Robertson came within a whisker of achieving the feat in each of his first five seasons.

Westbrook, meanwhile,



drew little college interest until his senior season in high school and started just one season at UCLA before turning pro. During his first six seasons in Oklahoma City, he logged eight triple-doubles.

Then he perfected the art and produced another 173 over the last seven seasons.

They met in 2017, a meeting Westbrook called overwhelming.

"He flew to Oklahoma City and he didn't have to do that," he said. "He took time out of his day to talk with me and my family about that moment. I was honestly more intrigued because he was dealing with social injustice when he was playing and so I was really intrigued about how he dealt with that and continued to play at such a high level."

Westbrook also found a way to produce big numbers night

after night.

## Warriors 136, Thunder 97

In San Francisco, Stephen Curry scored 49 points in 29 minutes and matched his season best with 11 3-pointers and Golden State beat Oklahoma City.

Curry shot 14 of 26 overall and 11 of 21 beyond the arc while fans serenaded him with chants of "MVP! MVP!" as they have ever since being allowed back in Chase Center. He made five 3s in the first quarter, one in the second and five more in the third before sitting out the entire fourth quarter.

Golden State remained a half-game ahead of Memphis for eighth place in the West.

Svi Mykhailiuk scored 17 points and Luguentz Dort added 16 for Oklahoma City. The Thunder have lost six straight and 20 of 21.

## Jazz 124, Rockets 116

In Salt Lake City, Georges Niang tied a career high with 24 points and NBA-leading Utah beat short-handed Houston to reach 50 victories.

Jordan Clarkson scored 21 points, and Bojan Bogdanovic added 20 — his seventh straight 20-point performance — for the Jazz.

The Jazz finished 5-0 on their homestand despite missing All-Stars Donovan Mitchell and Mike Conley again.

The Rockets have lost five straight and 20 of their past 23 games. Khyri Thomas and KJ Martin each had career highs of 27 for Houston.

## 76ers 118, Pistons 104

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid scored 29 points, Tyrese Maxey added 22 and Philadelphia beat Detroit for its eighth

straight victory.

The 76ers moved closer to clinching the top spot in the Eastern Conference. Tobias Harris added 18 points for Philadelphia, which played without All-Star Ben Simmons (back) and starting guard Seth Curry (hip).

Saddiq Bey and Jerami Grant each scored 14 points for Detroit.

## Nets 125, Nuggets 119

In Denver, Kevin Durant scored 33 points, including five free throws over the last 21 seconds, and Kyrie Irving added 31 as Brooklyn Nets snapped a four-game skid by storming back to beat short-handed Denver.

The Nets moved a half-game in front of Milwaukee for the second seed in the Eastern Conference. Brooklyn remained three games behind East-leading Philadelphia.

Washington Wizards' Russell Westbrook goes to the basket against Indiana Pacers' Caris LeVert (22) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, May 8, 2021, in Indianapolis.

After trailing by as many as 21 points in the first half, the Nets took the lead for good at 111-110 on a 3-pointer by Joe Harris with 6:12 remaining. It was their first lead since 35 seconds into the game.

Nikola Jokic had 29 points for Denver, and Michael Porter Jr. added 28.

## Trail Blazers 124, Spurs 102

In Portland, Ore., Damian Lillard scored 30 points and Portland beat San Antonio to move closer to an outright playoff spot.

The Trail Blazers have won seven of eight to move within a half-game of fifth-place Dallas in the West. The top six teams avoid the NBA's new play-in tournament. San Antonio has lost six of seven but is 10th in the West, two games ahead of New Orleans for the final play-in spot.

DeMar DeRozan had 20 points for the Spurs.

## Grizzlies 109, Raptors 99

In Tampa, Fla., Jonas Valanciunas had 18 points and 21 rebounds, De'Anthony Melton hit four 3-pointers in the fourth quarter and Memphis beat Toronto to move closer to a play-in spot.

Jaren Jackson Jr. had 20 points for the Grizzlies, and Ja Morant added 12 points, seven rebounds and six assists.

Pascal Siakam and Gary Trent Jr. had 18 points each for the Raptors. They have lost seven of eight.

The Los Angeles Lakers won't have home-court advantage in the first round of the Western Conference playoffs. They need help if they're going to escape the play-in tournament. Worse yet, their invitation to the post-season isn't even guaranteed.

The defending NBA champions might be in trouble.

It's very simple for the Lakers: They win most of their games when LeBron James plays and lose most of their games when he doesn't. With him sidelined for 23 of the Lakers' last 25 games, they've fallen to No. 7 in the West — as low as they have been since late December. The most likely fate for them is playing a game (or two) in the new play-in round that awaits the teams finishing between seventh and 10th in each conference.

"We can't worry about that," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said Friday night after his team lost in Portland to fall to

## 'We can't worry': At No. 7 in West, Lakers may face play-in

the seventh spot.

James indicated several days ago that he's not exactly a proponent of the play-in games, saying the person at NBA headquarters who came up with the idea should be fired. But if the Lakers don't win most of their remaining five games, the play-in round awaits.

"Wherever we land, we're confident," Vogel said. "Obviously, we want to finish in the top six. We still have five games to make up some ground if that's possible. And we'll continue to try to win as many of those games as we can."

Dallas entered Saturday at No. 5 in the West at 39-28, Portland was No. 6 at 38-29 and the Lakers No. 7 at 37-30. The Lakers would lose tiebreakers against either the Blazers or Mavericks, lowering their odds of escaping the No. 7 spot.

That said, James — who has been dealing with a high ankle sprain — may return in the next few days, presumably to get into playoff shape and rebuild some chemistry. That means the champs have at least some reason for hope. His return apparently won't be Sunday against Phoenix; the Lakers said Saturday that James would remain out for that one.

"When we're 100% healthy, we're one of — no, we are the top team in the league," fellow Lakers All-Star forward Anthony Davis said.

Many bettors agree.

FanDuel Sportsbook still listed the Lakers on Saturday with the second-shortest odds to win the NBA title, behind only Brooklyn in that category. The Lakers were heavy favorites to win the title entering the season.

"Obviously, we don't want to go that route," Davis said of the play-in. "But if it happens, it happens."

Portland still has games left against Utah, Phoenix and Denver — three of the top four teams in the West. Dallas is in great shape, with its final five games against teams with a combined .392 winning percentage.

The Lakers' final five games could include as many as four matchups against teams playing for something. Phoenix visits Los Angeles on Sunday, New York comes in Tuesday and lottery-bound Houston visits Wednesday. The Lakers end the regular season with a road back-to-back against Indiana and New Orleans — both play-in hopefuls — next weekend.

"When we get everyone healthy, especially headed to

the playoffs, we know the type of team that we are, and I think the league knows the type of team that we are," Davis said.

It's not just James who has been sidelined. The Lakers are also missing, among others, point guard Dennis Schröder, who will likely not be able to play for several more days while going through the NBA's health and safety protocols in place this season to deal with coronavirus-related matters.

The whole year has been an injury roller coaster for the champs. James and Davis — who missed 35 games, most of those with a right calf strain — have appeared in only 25 games together all season; the Lakers are 17-8 in those games. The last time they were together in a game the Lakers won was Feb. 12.

"We're in an adjustment

phase, like we've been all year," Vogel said.

The Lakers are 28-15 when James plays this season, 9-15 when he doesn't. They were No. 2 in the West to begin March 20, the day James suffered the ankle sprain. Starting with that game against Atlanta, they've gone 9-17 and fallen steadily down the West standings.

If the Lakers finish seventh, they'll have two chances, both at home, to win one game and make the West playoffs. But Vogel knows in a one-game scenario, anything can happen.

"There's just too many things that can happen in a one-game series — foul trouble, roll of an ankle, anything like that could pop up," Vogel said. "So, we definitely want to finish in the top six. It's a high priority for us. But at the same time, if we end up in the play-in tournament, I'm confident in our group." (AP)



# Torres lifts Yanks over Scherzer, Nats in 11th inning



**NEW YORK**  
(AP)—Gleyber Torres'

tying single in the ninth inning and winning infield single in the 11th helped the New York Yankees overcome Max Scherzer's commanding 14-strikeout performance to beat the Washington Nationals 4-3 Saturday.

Scherzer allowed two hits in 7 1/3 innings, but the Yankees rallied three times.

Kyle Higashioka's home run tied the score at 1 in the third, Torres made it 2-all against Brad Hand in the ninth and Mike Ford's single evened it 3-3 against Hand in the 10th.

With automatic runner DJ LeMahieu on second in the 11th, Tanner Rainey (0-2) walked Giancarlo Stanton on a full count and Aaron Judge on four pitches, loading the bases.

Washington went to a five-man infield, replacing left fielder Kyle Schwarber with Jordy Mercer. Torres hit a dribbler to the third-base side that bounced off Rainey's bare hand as New York got its first walk-off win this season.

Justin Wilson (1-0) struck out two in a perfect 11th, and New York moved back over .500 at 17-16. Washington fell to 13-16.

## Braves 8, Phillies 7

In Atlanta, Ehire Adrianza capped a night full of comebacks for Atlanta with a game-ending RBI single in the 12th inning, helping the Braves stun Philadelphia in a chaotic victory.

Atlanta overcame deficits of 3-1 in the ninth and 4-3 in the 11th before rallying from a 7-4 hole in the 12th — all with Ronald Acuña Jr. out of the game after he was hit by a pitch in his left little finger in the seventh. X-rays were negative.

Phillies right fielder Bryce Harper didn't bother to field Adrianza's bloop single as Braves players poured out of the dugout to begin their on-field celebration.

William Contreras tied it at 7 with a three-run double off right-hander Enyel De Los Santos (0-1) before scoring on Adrianza's hit. Contreras' rip scored designated runner Ozzie Albies along with Austin Riley, who walked, and Dansby Swanson, who singled.

## Dodgers 14, Angels 11

In Anaheim, Calif., Mookie Betts drove in a season-high four runs, and the Dodgers blew most of a 13-run lead before holding on to beat their Southern California rivals.

Clayton Kershaw (5-3) pitched five innings of two-hit ball on three days' rest for the defending World Series cham-



pions, who emerged from a three-week funk for just their fifth win in 19 games.

The Dodgers went up 13-0 in the fourth and fifth innings, only to watch their bullpen surrender 11 runs to the Angels in the following two innings. The Halos scored seven unearned runs in a two-out rally in the seventh, capped by Jose Rojas' first career homer.

Victor Gonzalez pitched a 1-2-3 eighth, and Blake Treinen threw a perfect ninth for his first save.

## Mets 4, Diamondbacks 2

In New York, Jeff McNeil and Francisco Lindor teamed up to produce all four runs a night after scuffling in the dugout and New York beat Arizona.

The pair attempted to dismiss Friday's dustup by bizarrely claiming they were arguing over an animal spotted in the clubhouse tunnel — Lindor said it was a rat, McNeil's story was that it was a raccoon or possum.

No critters Saturday — just a couple All-Star hitters. McNeil hit a two-run homer in the third off Merrill Kelly (2-3), and Lindor had a double, an RBI and scored on a throwing error after a stolen base.

Five pitchers combined for an eight-hitter on a bullpen day for the Mets, who have won four straight. The Diamondbacks fell to 0-5 on a six-game trip, during which they have been outscored 29-10.

## Rangers 9, Mariners 8

In Arlington, Texas, Rangers rookie center fielder Adolis Garcia threw out Kyle Lewis at the plate on a wild, scramble play for the final out, and Texas held off Seattle.

Trailing 9-7 with two outs in the ninth inning, the Mariners had Lewis at first base and

Mitch Haniger at third when J.P. Crawford blooped a single between three Rangers in left-center field. When the ball ricocheted off Garcia, Lewis raced toward to the plate. Garcia recovered and threw to catcher Jonah Heim, who made the game-ending tag.

Joey Gallo homered twice and Garcia also went deep off Anthony Misiewicz (2-2) before Heim hit a tiebreaking double in the eighth.

## Athletics 6, Rays 3

In Oakland, Calif., Seth Brown hit a two-run homer in the first inning a day after delivering a walkoff drive, sending Oakland past Tampa Bay.

Brown added an RBI single in the seventh for key insurance before the Rays got one back in the eighth on Mike Zunino's RBI single against Jake Diekman. Lou Trivino relieved and had to escape trouble recording the final four outs for his sixth save after blowing a chance in Thursday's loss to Toronto.

Austin Allen also homered for Oakland to back Frankie Montas (4-2), whose day ended in the sixth one batter after Brandon Lowe's two-run homer.

Rays right-hander Tyler Glasnow (4-2) struck out 11 and walked four over 5 2/3 innings while giving up three runs on two hits. The Rays stranded 11 baserunners. Center fielder Kevin Kiermaier sprained his left wrist trying to steal second base and was pulled from the game in the second inning. X-rays were negative.

## Giants 7, Padres 1

In San Francisco, Brandon Crawford, Brandon Belt and Austin Slater homered and San Francisco kept rolling at home, beating San Diego.

Kevin Gausman (3-0) permitted three hits and struck

out seven in six smooth innings before San Francisco's bullpen blanked the Padres for the final three innings.

Lightly regarded when the season began, the Giants (20-13) own the National League's best record and a 2 1/2-game lead over second-place San Diego in the West.

Crawford ignited the Giants with his seventh homer of the season, a three-run drive in the third inning off Joe Musgrove (2-4).

## Blue Jays 8, Astros 4

In Houston, Cavan Biggio hit his first homer at the ballpark where his dad closed out his Hall of Fame career, Marcus Semien added a three-run shot late and Toronto beat Houston.

Biggio, son of Astros great Craig Biggio, hit a two-run shot off Cristian Javier (3-1) with one out in the second inning to make it 2-0. Biggio was 5 for 15 with two doubles but no homers at Minute Maid Park before Saturday. His father played at the park 590 times after the franchise left the Astrodome.

After Biggio led off the ninth with a walk, Lourdes Gurriel Jr. reached on an error by his brother, first baseman Yuli Gurriel — Lourdes placed an arm around his brother after the play. Semien then launched Joe Smith's two-out slider into the seats on left for his eighth homer.

## Red Sox 11, Orioles 6

In Baltimore, Michael Chavis homered in his first start of the season, Xander Bogaerts also connected and Boston beat Baltimore. Bogaerts and Alex Verdugo each had three hits for the Red Sox.

Garrett Richards (2-2) beat the Orioles for the first time in three starts this season, allowing four runs and eight hits

AP  
New York Yankees' Gleyber Torres is congratulated by manager Aaron Boone after Torres drove in the winning run in the 11th inning of the team's baseball game against the Washington Nationals on Saturday, May 8, 2021, at Yankee Stadium in New York.

over seven innings.

The Red Sox took a 4-1 lead in the second on a single by Hunter Renfroe and a two-run homer by Chavis off Orioles left-hander Zac Lowther (0-1), who made his first major league start.

## Cardinals 9, Rockies 8

In St. Louis, Yadier Molina drove in three runs in his return from the injured list, Paul Goldschmidt homered and St. Louis beat Colorado.

Goldschmidt also had three RBIs and Nolan Arenado hit another double against his former team. The Cardinals have won eight straight and 14 of their last 15 games against Colorado at Busch Stadium.

Carlos Martinez (3-4) wound up winning his third straight start. He allowed five runs on six hits and five walks in five innings. Alex Reyes struck out the side in a scoreless ninth for his 10th save.

## Cubs 3, Pirates 2

In Chicago, pinch-hitter Matt Duffy had a go-ahead single in the seventh inning, reliever Keegan Thompson pitched three scoreless innings for his first major league victory and Chicago beat Pittsburgh for its fifth straight win.

Willson Contreras and Eric Sogard each drove in a run for Chicago, which has won seven of nine to improve to 17-16.

Thompson (1-0) allowed two hits and a walk following starter Trevor Williams, who gave up two runs and five hits in four innings. Andrew Chafin worked a scoreless eighth and Craig Kimbrel got the final three outs for his sixth save.

Duffy pinch hit for Thompson and blooped a two-out single to right off reliever Clay Holmes to score Heyward — who led off with a walk against Sam Howard (2-2) and stole second. Ka'ai Tom hit his first big league homer and Adam Frazier had three hits for Pittsburgh, which has dropped eight of nine.

## Tigers 7, Twins 3

In Detroit, lumping Miguel Cabrera hit a tiebreaking single to key a five-run burst in the seventh inning that sent Detroit over Minnesota.

Cabrera had two hits, raising his batting average to .149. The longtime star now has 2,876 hits, tied with Mel Ott for 44th on the all-time list.

Robbie Grossman had three hits, including a home run, for the Tigers. It was 2-all when Grossman and Harold Castro opened the seventh with singles off Tyler Duffey (0-2).

Michael Fulmer (2-2) got the win with 2 2/3 scoreless innings. Starter José Ureña allowed two runs on nine hits in 4 1/3 innings.

## Brewers 6, Marlins 2

In Miami, Adrian Houser struck out 10 in six innings and homered off Daniel Castano (0-2) for the second time this season, and Milwaukee snapped a six-game losing streak.

Avisaíl García added his fourth home run for the Brewers, who improved to 1-5 on their seven-game trip. Miami had won four in a row. Marlins batters struck out 18 times and totaled only six hits.

Houser (3-3) allowed two runs while matching a career high in strikeouts, and his homer in the fourth raised his career average to .121 (4 for 33).

Josh Hader, Milwaukee's fourth pitcher, pitched around a single in the ninth and struck out three.

## Indians 9, Reds 2

In Cleveland, César Hernández hit a three-run triple and Aaron Civale pitched seven strong innings to stay unbeaten as Cleveland struck back after being no-hit for the second time in 24 days by belting Cincinnati.

The Indians became the 18th team to be no-hit twice in the same season on Friday, when Wade Miley shut them down for the majors' fourth no-no in 2021.

There was no more dubious history for Cleveland. José Ramírez had two RBIs and the Indians scored six times off starter Luis Castillo (1-4), who was hurt by the Reds making two errors.

## White Sox 9, Royals 1

In Kansas City, Mo., Danny Mendick hit a two-run homer during an eight-run first inning for Chicago, Yoan Moncada added three RBIs on two hits in the inning, and Andrew Vaughn, Leury Garcia and Yasmani Grandal each had an RBI.

The White Sox hit for the cycle in the first and scored their most runs in the opening frame on the road in 21 years.

Lance Lynn (3-1) allowed one hit in five scoreless innings. He walked four and struck out six. Lynn has shut out the Royals over 14 innings in two starts against them this year.

David Lynch (0-1) didn't make it out of the first inning. He got two outs and was charged with eight runs on seven hits and one walk.



# Isaac Aguon grabs final Ace of Aces spot

## Calvo Field House to open Athletics Hall of Fame room

Sports memorabilia from the University of Guam's past will guide the next chapter of Triton Athletics history as it decorates a newly dedicated conference room in the Calvo Field House. The Triton Athletics Department and Field House will open the Athletics Hall of Fame Conference Room, located within the Triton Fitness Center, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10 a.m. on Monday.

"This is another proud moment in celebrating the history of the Triton Athletics program and building excitement for its bright future," Athletics director Doug Palmer said.

The event is open to the public in person—with masks, temperature checks, hand and shoe sanitation, and sign-in required—or virtually on the Triton Athletics Facebook page and YouTube channel.

The conference room, which can seat eight, features a TV monitor for presentations and virtual meetings, multiple lighting features, and drapes for sound buffering.

The room is decorated with sports equipment and uniforms donated from members of Triton Athletics Hall of Fame, in-

cluding a signed football from the 1974 team and a baseball signed by Japanese professional baseball player Sadaharu Oh, who holds the world record for home runs. The ball was originally given to UOG Hall of Famer David Nelson, who played baseball for the Tritons in 1979.

In addition to Nelson, Hall of Fame members John and Susie Borden, Christobal M. Mesa, David Nelson, Susan Rechebong Luploa, and Helen Whippy (for James Whippy) made donations.

The room is also filled with pictures that tell the Triton Athletics story from its beginnings up to its relaunch in 2016.

Speaking at the event will be UOG President Thomas W. Krise, Dean of Enrollment Management and Student Success Lawrence Camacho, Triton Athletics Hall of Famer Christobal M. Mesa, and UOG Athletics Director Doug Palmer.

### Announcement of Hall of Fame 2020 and 2021 inductees

The ceremony will include the announcement of former UOG athletes to be in-

ducted as the Class of 2020 and Class of 2021 into the Triton Athletics Hall of Fame. The announcement will be followed by a formal induction later this year during the annual UOG Hall of Fame Reception basketball game.

With the two new classes, the Triton Athletics Hall of Fame will have a total of 35 members.

The doors for the ceremony will open at 10 a.m. on Monday, and a short program will begin at 10:15 a.m. The public vaccination clinic will not be operating at the Calvo Field House that day. Following the event, the room can be viewed during regular Triton Fitness Center hours: weekdays from 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 6pm (but closing at 5pm Fridays).

The Triton Fitness Center and conference room can be accessed from the tennis court side of the Calvo Field House, with parking in the grass parking lot. The fitness room doors are in the middle of the building, marked by orange cones.

For more information, contact UOG Athletics Director Doug Palmer at (671) 735-2862 or palmerd@triton.uog.edu. (PR)

UOG

John Borden, a 2017 inductee into the Triton Athletics Hall of Fame, points to an old team photo on the Wall of Fame display in the Calvo Field House at its unveiling in 2019. The Triton Athletics Hall of Fame and Field House at the University of Guam will continue to build and memorialize UOG's sports history with the opening of the Athletics Hall of Fall Conference Room on Monday, featuring memorabilia from the university's past sports teams.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Isaac Aguon, middle, topped the monthly April Ace last month to secure the final spot in Marianas Golf Association's annual Ace of Aces championship tournament to be held this month.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Isaac Aguon topped the monthly April Ace last month and has secured the final spot in Marianas Golf Association's annual Ace of Aces championship tournament to be held this month.

During the event last April, Aguon bested 34 other competitors after shooting 46 in the front nine and 38 in the back nine for a gross score of 84.

Sporting a 19 handicap and a net score of 65, Aguon was crowned the April Ace which was the last spot up for grabs for this season.

Meanwhile, Victor Salas and Mel Sablan tied for the second-lowest net score of the day with a 66, but Salas edged out Sablan on a scorecard playoff to bag second place.

With Aguon securing the 12th and final spot, he now joins the other monthly ace winners vying for the Ace of Aces champion.

The format of the Ace

of Aces is a two-score total amongst the 12 monthly ace winners. This means scores from the April Ace and May Aces will be combined and totaled and whoever comes out the lowest will be crowned this year's MGA Ace of Aces Champion.

The other monthly ace winners includes Ron Benavente for May 2020, Chris Leon Guerrero for June 2020, Don Hallmark for July 2020, Joey Dela Cruz for August 2020, Gerald Guerrero for September 2020, Calvin Yamagishi for October 2020, Patrick Guerrero for November

2020, Shine Tenorio for December 2020, Chris Groves for January 2021, Keone Chariton for February 2021, and Dung Tenorio for March 2021.

The April Ace was held last April at Laolao West Course with a total of 34 members and four guests joining the monthly.

Also winning awards that day were closest to the pin winners Victor Salas who came closest in hole No. 3, Keone Chariton in hole No. 7, J.J. Atalig in hole No. 13, and Patrick George who won the KP award for getting closest in hole No. 17.

## ITAAS

From Page 20

passing, speed/quickness, IQ, and how I am able to finish at the rim even at difficult angles. My dominant hand is my left and I also am very athletic. I am also versatile and can play almost all positions. But other than my skills, I believe my biggest strength would be my dedication and mentality to always wanting to improve in the game of basketball. I love learning and taking in advice from people who have much more knowledge than I do in the sport. I am always willing to work hard to become the best player I can be," he told *Saipan Tribune* in a recent interview.

The Marianas High School alumnus said he's aware of his father's many accomplishments in basketball and would like to someday attain his success but at the same time carve his own niche in the sport.

"My dad has always been one of my biggest inspirations in the game of basketball. He is the reason why I started playing basketball. Growing up I would always go to his games, sometimes even sitting at the bench with his team cheering him on. I was so proud to be his son because my dad was really good at basketball, he even had nicknames that the announc-

ers would chant out like Leo 'The Skywalker' Itaas or 'The Human Pogo Stick,'" he said.

Like most CNMI basketball players nowadays, Khristian wants to follow the footsteps of former Garapan Rollers player and MHS alumnus Jericho Cruz, who played collegiately in the Philippines and is currently playing for NLEX in the Philippine Basketball Association.

Aside from Cruz, Khristian also idolizes his father. "I wanted to be just like him. My parents would keep newspaper clippings about him and it would talk about the awards that he has won or he really played a good game. I always just picture and imagine myself winning the awards that he has like the most valuable player because I also want him to be proud of me. He is also my mentor and has taught me a lot about the game. So every time, I know my dad is out there watching my game, I always want to give it my all," he added.

Khristian is indeed primed to reach new heights in the sport of basketball, which only justifies his last name as "itaas" in Filipino means "high."

Khristian and other second-generation basketball players are also featured in the April-June edition of *TAGA Plus*. To read the article go to <https://tagaplus.saipantribune.com/>.

## TASI

From Page 20

regret, there. I was on that boat along with the students, and they had my sympathy and my own slightly queasy stomach. Things calmed down when a service vessel, reserved for the event, arrived to take anyone who needed it back to shore and solid ground. The captain and advisors made the call to change fishing locations soon after their departure.

With the seasick fishermen and women taken to the safety of land, the atmosphere picked up again as the day wore on. The captain changed location twice, in search of more active fish to catch, and the remaining students enjoyed the sun and the ocean spray as *Lucky Harvest* rocked, trailing hooks and lines off every side.

Fishing (when not afflicted with motion sickness) is a calming and comfortable sport, and the students and teachers

spent their time talking, laughing, and having a nice morning trying their luck against mother nature. The advisors had clearly done a good job of preparing their students for the event. The young fishermen and women prepared their lines and hooks without incident or injury—it's always a good day when nobody gets a hook in the hand.

The fish bit less and less as the hours passed—mornings are generally known as the ideal time for fishing, after all—and successful catches slowed as the sun climbed the sky. By 11am, the fish were quite done with being caught, and the captain turned back toward the marina.

A highlight of the day came on the way back to shore, as a pod of dolphins were spotted breaching. The captain slowed and the students gathered as the dolphins spent a few minutes resting at the surface before descending out of sight. It was an excellent way to cap

off their time on the water.

Back in Smiling Cove, Tasi to Table had set up tents and scales, and the students registered their catches with the Division of Fish and Wildlife, as they had been taught before the event. Students and families sat to celebrate a low-key tournament well done. Awards were issued for the Top 6 catches of the day, with prizes donated by sponsors Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods, Mobil Oil Marianas, Gold's Gym, and Fisherman's Wharf, along with the Marianas Visitors Authority.

The early catches of the day had not been surpassed, and Dubrall's prized goatfish weighed in at 0.65 lbs, winning her first place and a brand new rod and reel, donated by Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods.

As the *Lucky Harvest* pulled back into the docks, I spoke to Wollak and he was happy to have the opportunity to be out there, and to give his club mem-





Westbrook basks  
in milestone  
moment of tying  
Big O's record

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Isaac Aguon  
grabs final Ace  
of Aces spot

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Brilliant Star golden in relays

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**B**rilliant Star School brought their A-game and dominated the relay portion of the 2021 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships held last Friday and Saturday at the Oleai Track and Field.



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
Brilliant Star School dominated the medley relay event of the 2021 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships held last Saturday at the Oleai Track and Field.



BSS came out and won big last weekend and succeeded in their goal after sweeping the boys 4x400 relay and the mixed medley relay behind Damien Camacho, Moshe Sikkel, Evan Poole, LoVel Spaeth, Scarlett Burrell, Alice Moon, Aiden Camacho, Xavier Camacho, Selina Santiago, and Akeen Edvalson.

In the mixed medley portion of the championships, BSS came out on top after the team completed the relay race in just 2:26 earning them the gold medal.

Following BSS and landing second was Saipan International School who completed the course just 10 seconds later at 2:36. The team was awarded the silver medal.

Rounding up the Top 3 and earning the bronze medal in this year's championships was

Tinian Elementary School after completing the course just a second later than SIS at 2:37.

Meanwhile in the boys 4x400 relay race, BSS completed the course in 5:37 gaining them another gold medal.

Following them in second place was SIS who finished nearly a minute later at 6:26 gaining them another silver medal.

Saipan Community School completed the Top 3 after finishing the course with a time of

6:44 to earn the bronze medal.

BSS also nearly came up first in the girls 4x400 but fell one minute behind SIS who finished at 6:32, landing them the gold medal for the championship event.

BSS finished at second place submitting a time of 7:27 and were awarded the silver medal.

Completing the Top 3 was Rota Elementary School who came in at 7:58 earning them the season's bronze medal.

## Tasi to Table back on open waters

By CODY RACE  
cody.race111@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

Tasi to Table is congratulating itself on an event well done after this Saturday saw the return of the Shallow Bottom Tournament following a pause of activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Early morning saw char-

tered fishing vessel *Lucky Harvest*, helmed by captain Cecilio Raiukiulipiy, depart Smiling Cove with a cargo of 22 young fishermen, all members of Tasi to Table's youth club. Chaperoning were TTT club advisors Dan Wollak and Micah Page.

*Lucky Harvest* took the students out into open waters on

an hour-ride through the morning surf. They reached a choice fishing spot just outside the reef, and from there students cast their lines, putting their skills to the test. The club teaches the basics of fishing technique and equipment care, said Wollak.

"They've been practicing, they've been learning everything for months and months, and now we're getting to the fun stuff, where they get to go out and actually practice what they're learning."

It wasn't more than 10 minutes before their practice paid off. The first catch of the day was from the advisors, but almost before that fish was pulled off the hook the students were starting to reel in their own.

The morning went well, with a half dozen student catches in the first hour and a half—including what would turn out to be the tournament's winning fish, reeled in just an hour after

starting by Tasi to Table member Jenisha Dubrall. Participants continued to cast well into the morning, bringing up a number of fish, some undersized and thrown back, but a good dozen or so set aside and destined for the next day's dinner.

Unfortunately, the morning's joy wasn't unanimous. Rain and wind occasionally rocked *Lucky Harvest*, and the surf was not as calm as could be. Several students began feeling queasy soon after stopping at the shallow bottom fishing zone, and lay down their rods and their heads to try to keep their lunch. They were mostly successful—but not all, sadly. A few "chummed the waters."

The ocean can be an uncomfortable place, and seasickness is an unfortunate fact of fishing on open waters. Dramamine was advised and available before departure from the docks, though not all chose to take the option. I myself felt some

See TASI on Page 19

## Khristian Itaas reaches new heights

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Like his father, Khristian Itaas is slowly making a name for himself in the sport of basketball. However, unlike his father, Leo, the 19-year-old has a more balanced skill set.

More than 10 years ago, Leo wrought havoc all over the playing courts on Saipan with his scoring acumen and gravity defying fast-break plays that birthed his moniker, "The Human Pogo Stick."

However, his son has a more all-around game as the 5'11" Khristian plays more of a guard and even led the recently concluded Rollers Basketball Association 2021 Spring Madness League U19 division in assists with 12 dole-outs. He went on to win the regular season MVP award of the tiff for the runner-up Sonics as he also paced his age group in scoring with 46 total points.

Khristian knows he's more than a one-trick pony and admits that he wants to affect every facet of a basketball game, whether it be scoring, passing, defending, and even being his team's emotional leader.

"My strengths in basketball, skill-wise, would be my 3-point shooting, dribbling,

See ITAAS on Page 19



MARK RABAGO  
Khristian Itaas shows off his Scoring King and Assists King medals in the recently concluded Rollers Basketball Association 2021 Spring Madness League U19 division.



CODY RACE  
Tasi to Table's Shallow Bottom Tournament winner Jenisha Dubrall holds up her prized goatfish.